VOL 24

[illegible] Nabob Kennedy Came Rabander be acknowledg'd as
of the Carnatick on ye full and ample manner as his Fa
& any other Subahs have enjoyed the Provinces and that
King of Tanjore enjoy his Country without Molestation
enquiries of which sort Demands as Mr Daplex may
have to them will be consider'd and if possible reconcil'd
satisfied

4 If any separate private Treaty have been agreed on or
Letters or Bonds or Obligations are in your
hand should be expected the Treaty must drop but here
you may demand the Separate Bonds Letters &c. to Make void
Agreement as with them

5 If any should be accepted you will then perceive to your Hon
Directors as regard to Nabob and their Resolutions in regr
to the King of Tanjore and communicate them to us as they
are friends that no determinate Resolution can be made
till their Honrs are acquainted with them

6 As Mr Daplex is an Ally of the Daloway he will conduct
think himself in honour bound and would be glad to treat
for him the Think How ye ne Cessary for introducing
into the Conference but by weighing these answers those of
prove a probability of the prior Articles being concluded
then it may be intimated that it be left to the Nabob to
treat with them separately, but if insisted on that the Dow
shown them be settled and for the payment of such sum
as shall appear justly and equitably due, certain Districts
the Tondemandy Country shall be mortgaged

7 That whatever Satisfaction shall be given to the other for
Expences & Damages sustained shall be guaranteed by the rest
and that as our Views in treating for the Nabob are to restore
Case to the Country that he may be more effectually secur
by treating of and coming to an amicable Agreement
as to our Trade in the whole Coast we are ready to do it.
and you may propose it

Monday
the 25th

[illegible] December 1753

on all Occasions it will be entirely out of my Power to
answer their Your Letters to the King and Nabob have
been delivered Ramah Naick arrived without the Town on the
3d past, but a good day not having presented, has not yet
made his Appearance I have sent repeatedly to know his
reason how to think of it

I have duly observed your repeated Cautions
to be moderate in my Expences; tho' ye will not excuse
of my most Obedience to and that you may be a timely
Judge of them perticulars beseemeth my account to you regu-
larly every month. Accordingly I now enclose that to 31st
November closing if it does not appear to contain as much
be expected I will please to have regard to the Presents
made and that Necessaries provided at my setting out
Home for the future will I hope be considerably reduced, of
the 61 Coolys I brought out with me I have discharged
half though at home Rogues of not being able to get others
when Occasion requires in which case my necessaries must
be left on the Ground for any one to pick up that meet with
them I remain etc and Sirs

Honble Sir & Sirs Your most Obedient humble Ser.
Thomas Cooke

Which having been communicated immediately to the Court
of Council it was judged proper in Consequence to write the
following Letters to Major Lawrence and Mr Cooke Viz
t Stringer Lawrence Esqr Commander in chief
of all the Company's Forces in India

Sir,

We wrote you last the 20th Instant
since which we have received from Mr Cooke Advice that Mora
ger is degraded from his Command which has been conferred on
Gadarow and that they were to march in a few days, he
takes notice of Sheerjee Naick's great Power at Court and
Sir

Dear Sir

I was yesterday favoured with your Letter
of the 23d Instant and observe your Directions for the meeting
the whole County to the King of Tanjore if he will be pleased
to settle matters with the Dalleway which are entirely
what have occurred to after discovering the Rebel and
discovers his Consent deal but the progress I have taken
me to think at present a step Can not accomplish all my
in the Course of what I can then already effect with
the Court of a few days. Since I have wrote to the Major
shall confirm to the Opinion I believe your Excellency was
to very right in regard to the Kings Disposal of making up
Officers for only Lacks of Rupees. It looks dangerous only to
desert the time and days of the last Battle, his consent to
which you may depend on it, will never be procured. The
Friendship at the Durbar might certainly be procured
and is what I shall do all in my power to contribute to, but
ver I cannot but remark from his dilatory Behaviour
that it seems to be contrived on his side only because he is
afraid to be absent, the Welfare of his own Dominions
he must at Stake and it is to the Loss of this alone that
or our Relation for all his Assistance. Manager is at
present under the Kings Displeasure having refused grant
not to command the Troops without being vested to his
fewer Privileges I was obliged to intercede but in a kind
manner for him by assuring the strongly might have pro
of all Consequence but without Effect. However it occurred
before as to get Godown appointed in the room created
Managerpeth who was before entended. The high Dustoo
at this Court I suppose you are not unacquainted with
therefore may be sensible of the reason. He is thought to be
a good friend to the General Cause. I should be ready to
with your Recommendation in taking notice of Mooga but
present Situation however makes it necessary to be avoided
Troops is certainly a great Enemy and of much Consequence

Fort St George December 1753

22 Received the following Letter from Mr Cooke viz.t

To the Honble Thomas Saunders Esqr
President and Governour &c Council
of Fort St George

Tanjour 9th December 1753

Honble Sir & Sirs

My last address to you was from Camp under date the 1st Instant as pr Duplicate inclosd I do not yet know how those Proposals have been digested by the Dalloway, but Report says that both he & Morarow are at their Wits End since the Army have movd towards them. The late blow they receivd at Trichenopoly has weakend them so extremely that I am much of Opinion they would call out for a Peace louder than us if we were for a short time to shew ourselves less eager for it. The Overtures we have already made has doubtless possess'd them with a Notion of bringing the Nabob to their own terms, in which they will likely continue till they see the Tanjore Troops joind and Advances made for another Brush, we now seem to have a greater Advantage over them than ever as the Odds of European Force, the chiefest Part that was ever regarded must I think be somewhat in our favour which I believe is far more than was a little time ago expected. The King here has at last determind on sending out his Troops and every thing is preparing for their speedy Procedure which he has promisd me shall be in four or five days at furthest. Thus I am endeavouring to hasten all in my power and as their joining of the Army may probably put the Mayor on some further Undertaking I am in that case inclind to think the Event of it will end in Terms infinitely more advantagious than can now be pretended to, however as my Return to Camp will be very shortly, a Conference with the Mayor will better determine these matters.

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Nabob and that no answer be returnd untill his Son
ments be known, it is hoped the Opinion of the Board
that if Morarow could be prevaild on to return to his own
Country it would be better than entering into any fresh
Engagements with him as it is out of the Nabobs Power to
comply with such as he would certainly require

From Visiram Rauze giving an account
of his Victory over the Nabob of the Rajahmundrum Country

Also Letters from the King of Tanjour
Nabob Anawerdy Cawn & Cuddapah Nabob &c. which contain
nothing material

Nine Englishmen who were Prisoners
at Chelleput having wrote to the President that on the
Killedars declaring for the Nabob they were releas'd and
were ready to assist him in defending the Fort, the Presi
dent wrote to them to do so and that all fitting Encour
ment should be given them

Draught of a Letter from the Presi
to Salabat Jung and one to Syed Lascar Cawn the Con
are read and approvd, acquainting them of our late
Successes & that we are ready to do every thing in
Support of the Lascar & to maintain those Rights and
Privileges of Trade which the Mogul and his Offic
have granted us.

Ivo: Saunders
Geo: Pigot
Henry Lawes
W. Lynch
John Smith
W. Bourchier

Fort St George December 1753

Captain Charles Campbell at Changlepuet, and Captain Lieutenant John Innes at Devecotah

Fort St George
20th December 1753.

We are Sir Your most Obedient Servants.
Thomas Saunders
Charles Boddam
Henry Powney
Alexander Wynch
John Smith
Charles Bourchier

Captain Kilpatrick at Trichenopoly advises that he had drawn on us for five hundred Pagodas in favour of Buckunjee Cathodee and three hundred Pagodas in favour of Amboordoss Ordered that they be accepted when presented and paid when due

Pallamcota a Fort in the Chellumbrum Country having been a considerable time besieg'd by a Party of the French and Seapoys Mr Hopkins at Devecotah writes that he had detach'd a Party from thence under the Command of Ensign Frazer to drive the Enemy away at whose Approach they abandon'd their Enterprize though they had made a large Breach in the Wall and might easily have taken it

Agreed that the several Officers in the Out Garrisons be directed not to make any Repairs what ever without express Orders but that they represent what is necessary to be done and that a proper Person be sent to survey the same and deliver in an Estimate of the Charge attending such Repairs

The President lays before the Board the Country Correspondence amongst which are the following viz.t

A Letter from Serapelly row one of Morarow's Jemidars to Comrapah the President's late Dubash making some Overtures for an Accommodation with the

Nabob

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first thing that appears to us necessary to be done is to throw as large a Quantity of Provisions as possible into Trichinopoly; the other Operations of the Army depending entirely on the Motions of the Enemy cannot admit of positive Directions from hence, they must depend on your Judgement and we are perswaded you will act for the best.

It was by no means our Intention to cast any Reflection on the Officers or create any Misunderstanding between you and them. We are well satisfy'd with their Conduct and are sensible that Success often depends on a Confidence in each other, in regard to the Command we have already wrote you.

We send you inclos'd a Copy of a Letter from Mr Dupleix to Capt Schaub on the Subject of a Letter addres'd to him by the whole Corps of English Officers and another from Capt Caillaud to Mr Mainville in relation to the Subsistence of the French Prisoners.

As the Demand for Fire Arms is great of the best of those that may be taken from the Enemy could be purchas'd for the Company's Account we think it would be an advantage to do so and if the Arms were all marked with the Company's Chop it might prevent the Seapoys from exchanging Good for bad, which has sometimes been the Case here.

Upon Captain Dalton's Resignation a Vacancy will be made for a Lieut Captain; Lieut Thomas Browne stands next on the List, we are averse to supersede any one without just Reason, but desire your Opinion of this Gentleman.

We think it is but right that Every Officer should take their Turns on the Field and shall therefore order Captains Gardner, Pascal Lee and Lieut Spears and Volunteer Clark to proceed forthwith to Camp, the three first are to be reliev'd in their respective Commands by Captain Donald Campbell at St David's.

Captain

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Interest the fluctuality that we have observ'd with the Nabob should not think confirm his Confidence. Succajee Naick seems but too much of the French Party. We observe his Endeavours to inculcate to the King of Tanjour a bad Opinion of Ramah Naick but as the Tanjour Vakeel here is a Creature of his, 'tis the more necessary that a Person on whom we can confide should be there, the President has therefore recommended him to the King's Favour

As Jealousy is so inherent in these Courts we wish this Conference may not, as well as make the King of Tanjour uneasy, throw into Mr Dupleix's hands the power of treating for the Dalloway also. If a peace should take Place between the Nabob and Mr Dupleix the other may be easily manaqd, if not we may possibly do it ourselves, would it not be more adviseable to treat with him seperately; the negotiation with Vencatrow continues just the same as when we before wrote you. Inclos'd are Copies of Letters to the Nabob and King of Tanjour, also of one from a Jemidar belonging to Morarow, he is so dangerous a Person and the Nabob & we are so little able to satisfy any Engagement, which we conclude would be lucrative to him, that we declined making any Advances till we are apprizd of the Nabobs Sentiments

Your movement towards Trichenopoly will we hope prevent any further Attempts of the Enemy. We have already congratulated Captain Kilpatrick on his Gallant Behaviour, we shall write to Bengal in regard to Volunteers and Bombay for Officers. We shall use our utmost Endeavours to send you a small Reinforcement, 'tis with Concern we observe the superiority of the Enemy's Army but with great Pleasure the Gallant Behaviour of the Nabob's and our utmost Endeavours will not be wanting to promote their Success.

You desire our Orders and Opinion, these are our Sentiments on the present Situation of Affairs and the

first

Fort St George December 1753

their unhappy Situation but when Self preservation is put in the Ballance, the whole World though they may pity their Misfortune will judge it an act of Prudence in the Nabob and acquit him of even the Shadow of Cruelty.

By Copy of a Letter from Mr. Dupleix you will perceive his Sentiments as to peace, as the Copy of our Reply will shew you our Intentions, when he absolutely objects to the Basis proposed for Treaty from a Conference what can be expected, As these Transactions are Laid before Ours and his Superiours he may mean to Exculpate himself and throw the Odium of the War on us The plausible Offers which flow so easily from his Pen dictated by his Fears by seem to favour this Opinion for where has he means at Authority to make good his Promises; his Success fluctuate and as ours depending on the Chance of War, ever precarious If we examine these proposals closely what are they more than he promises the Nabob shall have a Sugar and we be reimbursed our Advance on Condition that the Nabob release 1000 Prisoners and devest himself of his Allies by which means he will be able to pursue his Schemes at Aurungabad and conquer the whole Country and then be at Liberty to break or keep his Promises when no one will be able to oblige him to the performance of them, this affair is of a very serious Nature and we are of Opinion we cannot be too cautious for tis much easier to prevent than to apply Remedies afterwards It has been thought proper to appoint Commissaries, they will proceed to Sadras so as to be there the 30th. Instant.

We are sorry to observe there is a Jealousy in the King of Tanjour, the most reasonable Conjecture is that it proceeds from his Apprehensions of our Measures in Treaty with the French and Mysore Dalaway, we know of no means to dispel it but by assuring him of our Inviolable Attachment to him and that no Steps shall be taken previous to his Knowledge or any thing concluded hurtful to his

Interest

particulars I may; but as to general affairs the Consequences attending the Loss of a Battle or the necessity of geuing one you can very well judge of, as you perfectly know my Schemes on by my Letters. Let me then have your Orders and Opinions; I will execute them to the best of my power. If I am unfortunate enough to miscarry Calumny will not have I shall not be blam'd alone.

I acquainted you Mr Cooke was at Tanjore I receiv'd a Letter last Night from Ramah Naick who by this is also arriv'd there. I have answer'd it and desird him jointly to consult with Mr Cooke.

The Enemy only trifle with us as I am sure the King of Mysore will not write, says he has given his Oath of it to the French, never to write without their Knowledge; and his verbal Proposals are such as he knows we cannot accept of. Monagee I am informd is set out with some troops to join us.

The Dalloway has sent word he will not pay the Bill, he says if we detain his Vakeel by force we must pay his Expences. I believe you can get the Money from nobody but the Man himself.

I omitted to acquaint you in my last that Captain Saunderson was obligd to return on account of his Health. I have but two Captains of Infantry on the field with me. I beg some more may be sent.

Camp
the 14th December 1753.

I am Gentlemen
Your most Obedient and most
humble Servant
S. Lawrence

The Honble Thomas Saunders Esqr
Gov & Pres.t & Ver Council of Fort St George.

The President lays before the Board a Letter from Mr Dupleix & Captain Schaub with Copies of Letters from the English Officers to them and from Captain Caillaud in the name of the English Officers to Mr Maunsell at Syringam wherein they say that the Nabob having determin'd not

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Honble Sir & Sirs (N°18)

Inclos'd is a Return of the Forces under my Command in Trichenopoly. Mr Maxwell on account of his ill State of Health could not as I intended take a general Muster, as soon as he recovers you shall have one.

I beg you will look over the Return & you will find the Number of European Cavalry and private Men Columns of European Artillery and Corporals in Camp, you will find the Number to be 353 this is the whole of my European Force that carry Muskets the rest is made up by Topasses Coffreys and the Train of Artillery which cannot be included as they do not serve in Battalion. I sent you an Account in my last of the Enemy's Force; you may judge from what they did in the Affair against Trichenopoly & what remains that a little Reinforcement will make them again superiour to me in Europeans as to Black People they are at present at least five to one.

I do not mention this Gentlemen to alarm you needlessly or as if I thought more now of Affairs than formerly but to shew you I am not elevated by Success, that I know the vast odds that I am oblig'd to engage against when I attack the Enemy & am determin'd only to be warranted but by the absolute Necessity that obliges me to it and would be sorry (though attended with Success) to be reconcil'd to myself as a Soldier and much less to the world that censures often without Cause, were not the Inducements I am drove to appear this Good Fortune may not contribute and should it happen otherwise the true reason may not be given for it but imputed to my Rashness or Misconduct. To prevent this I beg your Orders for my Motions. You may say I am the best Judge as being on the Spot

Continue

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3 more obstinately continued in such a Situation

3 As you have been at the Pains of recommend-
-ral Letters and made Remarks as you proceeded I wish
to consider what you have said than relate a Story
of my own since I conceive it will answer the same End
prove notwithstanding the light Manner in which you rep
thing and that I have not complained without Reason

4 In regard to the Badness of my Interp
you say the President endeavour'd to get me Security
ny for a Linguist; Tis certain he suffer'd me to be mak
one for four months, however easy to procure another, eve
he absolutely refus'd me the Man you speak of when I
for him at Madraſs and would not let me try to engage
him

5 I conceive you mistake the Point in question
relating to Mr Pettington; This Gentleman having serv'd
Company as a Lieutenant at St Helena was sent out
to be reinstated in the Service and I delivered a Paper on
(which I suppose is enter'd) shewing that our Honble Maſte
directed he should be provided for as I appointed; Being
great Want of Officers at Trichenopoly & convinced of his
ence and Capacity I gave him a Brevet enabling him
on his former Rank and acquainted the President with
I had done who never objected to it till three Months after
Can any one call this superceding? Neither Mr Saunders
Case nor mine will bear a Parallel with it, Officers of one

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two Years Standing have no Reason to complain when ano-
ther of superiour Rank is brought into the Corps and I protest
the least Grumbleng never reach'd my Ears but all the Ensigns
serv'd under him with pleasure, I must add Gentlemen that
even Promotions out of the Common Road are often made when
the Service requires it, Captain Clive was offer'd a Major's Bre-
vet to a Glorious Purpose would his Health have permitted
him to accept of and He & Mr Vansittes made Captains over
every body; I would gladly make the Case of Mr Ripington
theirs.

6 Captain Pegou a young Man was sent to Dene
Colah instead of Captain Clark whom I intended for it; you might
easily have remov'd this Grievance to the publick a great while
ago if you had intended it by exchanging one for the other
If the President told Captain Schaw it was not proper to declare
what his Detachment was intended for 'till after their Arrival
at St David was it right that I must be kept in the Dark,
The Obscurity that was affected expos'd me to the Officers and
Mr Schaub remark'd he had neve known before that his
General (as he call'd me) had n't the Power to grant him
a small Favour

7 That Affairs have been carried on in Obscurity
is certain as at this Instant I am ignorant both of your
General Plan and Designs. When I was at Madrass I unnec-
ssarily the President amus'd me with little Things as they happend
and what is scarce worth mentioning except to shew how I was

5

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treated forc'd me to wait half an hour in the Hall where he was talking with a Vakeel and afterwards to excuse it said he was deep in Discourse with him but nothing further If you appeal to the Camp Correspondence I can't find any thing there to clear up the matter except a Reservedness in every Particular, Let any impartial Man look over our Letters and determine who has acted with most Openness, it seems to me that I am Loaded with Praises in those where I am most to find with.

8 The Plan I wrote of leaving the Army entirely was for the Nabob to go to Pondicherry Bounds, to this you reply we have no Business there which is certainly true but the Nabob had with Mr Dupleix — I thought the Neighbourhood of Pondicherry the properest Place for negotiating a Peace which then seem'd procurable but did not intend to commence Hostilities or enter the Limits. Let us see what was the Consequence of deviating from this and pursuing another Scheme Major Kinneir was order'd to Gingee leaving Waldour & Pondicherry on his Rear which cut off all Communication with St David, Gingee with strong Detachments that could not be spar'd, the French had Time to recruit, the Country People no longer awe'd again join'd Chunda's Party, and Mons. Dupleix observing our Measures actually collected a sufficient Force to oppose the Nabob with the Army destin'd as it was Gingee prov'd impregnable to Cannon Shott & was only to be reduc'd by Famine. Captain Gardner with a Third Part of the

Sepoy

6

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Troops and a large Convoy of Stores was not able to join Major Kinnear by which means the Siege came to be raisd; The Nabob in a Headstrong Manner insisted on engaging the Enemy who were very Strongly situated and lost a Battle at Vickerypandy; Thus this flourishing victorious Army was forcd to take Shelter under the Walls of Trivedy after being repulsd and the Enemy were so elate upon it that they encampd within a Mile of our Bounds.

9 I must own your Notion of over-running the Enemy in an Instant startled me then and does still & whatever trifling Advantages may attend the Reduction of strong Places we shall be inevitably ruind by the taking and Garrisoning them while we have so many Enemies if once we lose the Superiority in the Field. I need not remark that dividing their Force is the very Rock the French have split on.

10 I dont know what Opinion might have been given in regard to the Passage of Ships to St. David in August but Captain Browne who is thoroughly acquainted with the Coast undertook to carry us there in two or three days which he Countryd and I must remark that no lucky Spirit but the Ordinary Land & Sea Breezes servd our Purpose. The President may remember I told him I was ready to go in a Butchers Tray if the Service requird it, but I saw no Reason for this or Mufsoolahs; when a Ship was to be had, especially as I had been ill so Lately.

11 The President did write me on the 25th October that he thought such a Correspondence as ours extremely

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improper & promis'd the strictest Scrutiny, but this must ap-
pear to be playing with Words when every thing remains as
before. I never complain'd that any of his Letters were Com-
plaisance

12 Your Sentiments on Winter Quarters and Keep-
ing the Field will require a closer Attention than the foregoing
Paragraphs; the several Reasons I urg'd for going to Trivedy
were that before I left Vendiawash & march'd to Trivedy the Rains
were to the Presidents Orders, the Rainy Season appear'd to be
set in, the Rivers were swell'd and the Roads already very dif-
ficult to travel in, all our Carriages were out of Repair, great
Quantities of our Ammunition spoilt & the Men falling sick
every Day, that the Situation of Trivedy was very unhealthy
that the Monsoon was no Season proper for Action and that be-
sides saving the Company a great deal of Money we should
be as near the Enemy at St Davids & more ready to detach
Parties from thence than any where else.

13 If the General Opinion in August was for the
Troops to winter in the Great Country & there was no Thoughts of
going to St Davids, yet You'll agree the Morattas forc'd us to alter
this Scheme, I can't conceive how the Nabobs Troops could
be turn'd to a Greater or indeed any Advantage by continuing
abroad in the Monsoon and I aver that a Good Garrison in
Trivedy would have answer'd as well as keeping our whole Force
there, it has always appear'd to me that a Rupture was inevita-
ble between the Mysore King & Nabob unless Treachery was given
up

Fort St George January 175[illegible]

up so that I can't conceive the Differences have been easier at one time than another, but if they had been Friends what would it have avail'd when the Weather prevented our acting; Has it been in my power to prevent this Alliance just concluded between the French, Mysorean, Moratta and Velour Chowdar[illegible] was it possible for me to prevent the Enemy's throwing Supplies into Gingee and collecting a Force at Valdour while the Aniacopang & Cunnar Rivers were impassable? if it was never design'd the Troops should go into Garrison, I must beg youll explain what the President means by Winter Quarters so often mention'd in his Letters or whether you think it right I should be forc'd to consult with the Nabob whose Obstinacy and Folly would ruin every thing was he to be trusted with the Management of Affairs, if you have had the Opinion of Officers who number'd about as you gave yours for it, I should be glad to ask them what Service was done by it or whether Captain De Gingens and every Officer he advis'd with did not want to go into Inchenopoly during the Monsoon, but the Nabob refus'd it. I know of no considerable Advantages that might be had from laying out this Winter and the Event shews nothing was got by it after sacrificing several brave Soldiers who might have liv'd to serve their Country had my Advice been follow'd Your Observation that while Men subsist there will be a Diversity of Opinions but I could have brought three of six or seven hundred Sufferers to support mine and I think no Man ought to be trusted with the

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Command & Care of the Troops whose Hands are so tied
he can't take the necessary Caution for their Preservation till the
fair has been debated in Council & it takes up fifteen days for an
answer

14 If my calculate of saving near eighty Rupees
pees a month is imperfect, yet if you consider the Batty of Boys
Soldiers & Seapoys, the Hire of Cooleys, Lascars and Carriages
gether with the Expence of Commissariat and the Coupons of
the Severals at Fort St. David who were idle at Trivedy I believe
it will appear I am not very wide of the Mark, add to this loss
would not have been lost now the Season offers for Action
is it possible Gentlemen we could have the Apparent Advantage
you mention by staying at Trivedy more than St. Davids, but one
Days March from it? I don't know what you mean by every
the Country as at this Instant no body are in Arms but the Sevend
and Morattas & the Monsoon is not at home to raise Contributions of
the Killedar of Wandewash refuses to pay the remaining Lack and
should be order'd to march there we are as near it here when
six Miles as we should be at Trivedy; Add to this that Stores
of every Kind are at hand. Further the Nabob never promis'd us
more than fifty thousand Rupees out of the three Lack and com
plaind it was more than he could spare, this will appear by
my Letters and was what he told the Commissary as well as we
when he receivd the Money

You next acknowledge that the Rivers will
swell and there must be some Inconvenience, but the Nabob propos

15

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being in the Field as the only means to keep his Affairs from suffering & that You heartily wish the Enemy may not appear abroad when our Troops are in Garrison & ruin the Country. I believe youll find it difficult with three times our Numbers to keep the Enemy from destroying the Country and a Paragraph in your Letter now before me confirms the Opinion "Every one knows the precipitate Marches of Moralla Horse that they plunder burn and destroy wherever they go, they don't move in Large Bodies but straggling Parties, Our Troops are Infantry, if you can get Advice of them, before your Troops can be up with them they are gone" And for the Nabob's Opinion I must beg Leave to transcribe what the President says of him in the Correspondence after complaining of the monstrous Agreement that was made with the Moraltas. "I have heard by the by that in the Course of 49 / the Nabob's Affairs / that no sooner is one Difficulty surmounted but fresh arise of such a particular Nature that would lead one into a serious Reflection, they say that 49 / the Nabob / is either a great Fool or a great Knave, by Letters I have received from thence I am inclin'd to believe the former Here's a Nabob whose Schemes ought to be pursued, I can tell You Gentlemen & so can Captain De Gingens that if his Schemes had been pursued or had we ever been acquainted with what was doing, his Affairs would have been ruin'd long ago but after all I must renew what I said long since that at St Davids we should be as capable of watching the Enemy and as near them as at Trivedy, and of this is granted me surely

The President's Letter 30th Sept.r

the

11. Fort St George January 1755

the Reasons I offer'd were sufficient. If half your Garrison sick what must be the Case of poor Tellicot who did not lye a Night dry for three Weeks though great Part of that time Agues and Fevers. Would it not have been better every way instead of ordering the Troops into Garrison, by your Letter of the 15th November, you had done it a Month before

16. I must repeat that I did not advise the Morattas till they plainly appear'd to be our Enemies and I am certain from what I have seen of this Country that you never secure a Friend in it but by convincing him he does not otherwise, when once you come to Treaty with these People they rise in their Demands as you lower yours which is indeed the very nature of all Despotick Government

17 I come now to consider your taking it Ill as a thing I never advis'd but consented to in Obedience to Orders for the Battle of Parnar Choultry the Naick whom I was to consult would not agree that we should march to the Southward afterwards he desir'd to remain at Trinody for some time which was reasonable as we were doubtful about the Morattas and it was with the greatest Difficulty I prevail'd on them to set out for Wondiwash when we did. The Season was now far advanced, it rain'd almost continually but as we had three things in view, the securing Winter Quarters, obtaining Captain Clive and raising Money, we march'd on with Chearfulness and laid Wondiwash under

Contribution

Fort St George January 1753

Contribution. It will appear by my Letters I had the Reduction
of this Fort & Chelleput in view if the Weather was any thing Fea-
ble though it was even a Doubt with the President some time be-
fore when he writes me "As the Monsoon approaches I can't perceive
"any great Scene for Action" But how surpriz'd must I be to receive
a Letter from Captain Clive telling me he had positive Orders from
M. Saunders neither to join me nor send me the heavy Cannon
Is this consistent Gentlemen with the Nature of my Commission for a
Captain to tell me he has Orders to disobey me) tho' I march'd from M.
ready to sustain his Party as well as to act otherwise would it not
have been better to have wrote me word I must not expect him e
To proceed - The Rains continued I had neither Bullocks nor Carria
to spare for fetching Cannon from Arcot and with a real Grief to
see this constant Opposition to every thing I desird & propos'd
which might one time or other endanger the Service I resolv'd to
go and wonder at Conjeveram - As if I was never to have done
with Cross Purposes after we were ready for marching comes an
Order from the President "If 35 (Changleput) should be easy
"easily think 10 (Trivedy) should engross the Nabob's Thoughts a
"few days or at the most not exceed 34 36 38 40 (Wandewash)"
In Obedience to this I alter'd my Rout and after being far advan
on the Road & having our Ammunition spoil'd by the Deep Gut
of Water we pass'd and the heavy Rains I receiv'd the Letters
wrote about Chelleput. Mine wrote near that Time will best sho
our Situation; From Villemcodoo October the 6th I say "I have heard

The President's Letter
N° 23. 23d Sept.

President's Letter
30th September

Fort St George January 1753

"nothing of Clive, since I receivd yours last, this & the Season bein
"too far advanc'd makes me give over all Thought of Chellapat
"it has rain'd excessive hard which makes it quite necessary
"rather of refreshing our Men than lyeing out in the Field
"a pressing Occasion" From Vickeryssunday October 8th I have
"spoke to the Nabob about Money, he complains that he owes
"and Cant on Debt and can't possibly spare more than forty
"and Rupees; I have wrote you my reasons for giveing over all
"Thought of Chellapat and the Weather is so terrible that I fear
shall lose a great many men before we reach our Journeys end
Tis observ'd I never mention'd Captain Clive's joining me in the
Correspondence: No. I imagin'd my Orders to him were
cient of I thought it proper as he was so much nearer me than
you

18 I don't know what the President may have wrote
Captain Clive but does it not appear Gentlemen as I think the Letter
to defer countermanding his Orders about sending the twenty Europe
till the 2d October when he knew I must be half Way to Trinchy
in Obedience to what he wrote Sept. 30th, before it was possible
the Letter could reach me

The Affairs of Bullocks Cooleys &c has been ex
10 ken of fully by Mr Starke & myself conjunctly.

And now Gentlemen I am come to that par
20. of your Letter where you finish your Enquiry but the Consideration

14 Fort St George January 17

of what I have remark'd will shew I can by no means say that I complain'd without Reason, If it appears that a Conti- Opposition has been hitherto made to me, is all possible Dis- nce of our Honble Masters could be forwarded while I acted at all when I saw no prospect of an End to this Opposition, wa- it not the Part of an honest Man to sacrifice my own Interest and Employments rather than continue it? I can assure you Gentlemen I am sincere when I tell you my Passions are neither so violent nor my Resentment so strong but I am yet able to forget every thing that is past and if a Friendship and Harmony subsist for the future as it ought, I shall think myself happy in having resumd the Command, as it may give me some Share in disap- pointing the Scheme of these Enemies to our Country who aim at the Destruction of our Trade and all that is dear to us.

21 I should be glad to make an End here, but an Expression in your Letter (which pardon me if I call impolite) telling me I made a dishonourable Request forces me to say a wo- more and accompany you to the End.

22 If you ever intend that I shall have it in my po- to reward an Officer in the Field who appears to me to have extraordinary Merit (a thing never denied a Commander before by are the Conditions of coming into the Service made more to Mr Pepington now than they were last August, his Behaviour at the Battle near Bancoor I thought merited something more than my first Appointment and I recommended him to the President

.125.

Fort St George January 1753

who returnd me a List of Officers to be made Lieutenants and
placd him the Sixth from Mr Cooper, this Soon gave me some
Surprize but how great must it be to find now you have put
six more over him — I would ask whether this is meant to stay
or not? or has he committed any Crime to merit this Usage?

.23

An Enquiry on the Transactions of this Campaign
will shew whether I deserve the cruel Hint you give of wanting
to forward the Service. I arrivd at St David the 16th August
brought the Enemy to an Engagement & beat them the 20th. After
wards we marchd to Trivedy and waited the coming down of the
Morattas from whence it was unsafe to stir as we did not know
whether they were Friends or Foes. On the 19th September they
joind us; On the 24th they set out for Hondiwash notwithstanding
the Badness of the Weather I reachd it the 30th. We finishd
our Business there by the 6th October, when the terrible Storm
& Thunder made us think the Monsoon was set in. My Lord
ders Orders for returning to Trivedy and Captain Clive's Letter
informing me he could not send the Heavy Cannon made me
give over all Thoughts of Chittapet if it was advisable (though
I really think it was not) so I made forcd Marches & with an
infinite deal of Fatigue got happily to Trivedy by the 16th. Here
the Campaign ended & whatever may be thought by those at a
Distance, here it ought to have ended, and we gave ends to St
Davids But through a Pique to me and for no other Reason
that appears from all I have been considering, the Conclusion
these brave Troops that have surmounted so many Difficulties
and served our Masters with so much Alacrity have been exposd
to

16

Fort St George. January 1753

to all the Inclemencies of a Monsoon when they were useless and might have been employed at St David in making Preparations for the ensuing Season and which we now feel the Consequences of. You might with Reason say I had acted dishonourably in continuing the Command to the Detriment of the Company when I was convinc'd nothing but the mortifying me / and you have succeeded / could cause the Steps to be taken that were. My Heart now bleeds to think, I could not redress the People's just Grievances nor can it be forgotten that I was forc'd to wait fifteen days for an answer to my Remonstrances which did not remove the Cause of my Complaint.

24.

When I take the Field which shall be as soon as possible I expect a certain Plan for Action and if ever I write for Orders on any particular Point, beg you'll send them positively. As I agree a Correspondence of this Kind is improper, let it drop, but if ever it should happen that my Actions don't please you or I am directed to do any thing I can't execute with Honour as a Soldier, the publick Good requires that my Command should cease and I attend that Council of which I am a Member to answer for my Conduct. However be assur'd I'll omit nothing to afford the Nabob and destroy his Enemies and beg you'll believe that a lasting Friendship & Harmony amongst us all cannot be more zealously desir'd by any one than myself.

Fort St David
31st December 1752

I am with the greatest Respect
Honble Sir & Sir
Your most humble & most Obt Servt
Stringer Lawrence

Fort St George January [illegible]

As we are of Opinion a Correspondence of this nature can
not any ways conduce to the Publick Service we judge it
proper to drop it and instead of replying to Mr Lawrence's
Letter of the 31st Ultimo, enter our Remarks on the Extraor-
nary Occurrences as follows viz.t

Paragraphs on Mr Law-
rence's Letter of the 31st Dec.r

1 The Examining the several Specialties complained
of, a plain Narative of Matters of Fact relative thereto (as from our
Disquisitions or Inferences of our own does not carry with it the Appear-
ance of an Artful Contrivance) but was the most prudent means we
could think of, as well as our real Intentions to promote Harmony

2 Mr Saunders as soon as he heard of the least Uneasiness
took the surest Method he could think of to remove it by desiring
Mr Lawrence would explain it; Mr Lawrence expostulated he was dis-
satisfyd, and when afterwards desird to represent his Grievances
such as came to our Knowledge are remarkd on our Address to the
Lawrence, if there are others we are ignorant of them. However
versally known, Experience must confirm it, that the Natives
secretly giving a Promise of the Factionopoly Country was a bare
Weak Action, the former because he knew he had no Right to
do it, the latter because he must know that though he procured
nated Difficulties, yet he must on the End (as it but too plainly
appears) make a powerful Enemy instead of a Friend. Wher Mr
Saunders wrote Mr Lawrence he was Known and a Fort was at
the time he was going to plunge himself into fresh and more D.
ficulties by Engagements to the Maratto who was a more danger-
ous

18

Fort St George January

Paragraphs in Major Lawrences Letter of the 31st December

Enemy than the Mysore King. It may be deemd an u
Circumstance that we have a weak Prince to support, the
Consequence that even the Name of him is to us is obnoxious, Coercion
are oftentimes of more Force than Compulsion, were we to assume
to ourselves the whole Power of acting, what Disgusts, what ill
Consequences might not from thence ensue?

4. The President never refus'd Mr Lawrence the Lie-
quest he speaks of, when he mention'd one he told him the fewer
were in the Secret of Affairs the better, and that if he could do with
that who was at Camp it might be as well, however the President
us'd all his Endeavours to persuade Purpah Brauminy to go to
Mr Lawrence but could not prevail on him

5 There is no Mistake in regard to Mr Repentigny,
the Company did not order him to be reinstated, he came out a
Volunteer. There was great Murmuring and Discontent; to mention
only one Instance, Lieut. Cooper would have flung up his Com-
mission, neither has the Case of Messrs Clive and Vaneller the least
Affinity, they are both nominal Officers, the first never receives
any pay, they have no Companies nor Serjeantes nor do they pre-
tend the Rank of any other Officers; Captain Clive was never of-
fer'd a Major's Brevet and generally had Subalterns on Com-
mand with him, Mr Vaneller was for his good Capacity and
Military Knowledge recommended by Mr Robins, has been on the
way of no one and behaved well

6 Captain Pigou was the only Officer on Garrison
to relieve Capt Markelyne, he is about the same Age and Major
Kenner

17 Fort St George January 1753

Paragraphs in Major Lawrence's Letter of the 31st December

Kinneer applyd for it, Captain Clarke is reckond a brave Officer Mr Lawrence was in Consultation when it was agreed to send Captain Schaub's Detachment to S. David Consequently acquainted with it from the time it was ordered and is no Reason that Captain Schaub should, nor was Mr Lawrence the least in the Dark from the Presidents saying to Mr Schaub it was not proper to tell him the Service he was going on

7. The General Plan is known to every Child in the Place to secure the Company's Trade & support the Nabob's. The Plan of Action Mr Lawrence has always been consulted about and whatever the Field every thing constantly communicated to him, if they appear trifling and related with Reserve let the Correspondence speak for itself. If Mr Lawrence waited on Lally while the Nabob's Vakeel (or Ambassador) was with the President, he thinks twas no more than Good Manners and what every Gentleman would do

8 As to the Bounds of Jurisdictory being a proper Place for negotiating a Peace, Mr Duplex's peaceable Inclinations were appear'd and in regard to Major Kinneers Expedition twas ill conducted, when he came to Gingee he had twelve Pounder Guns and 18 Pound Shott his Force was doubly superior to the Enemies, his very Escort encamp'd in the manner they were might have bid Defiance to them, he attack'd them too precipitately twas an Error in Judgment that occasiond his Retreat to Trivedy

9 Not overrunning the whole Province but the Advantage of taking some particular Places are notoriously evident Snot

Arcot

20

Fort St. George January 1753

Paragraphs in Major Lawrence's Letter of the 31st December

Arcot one? what induces the Nabob to erase Saudet Bander? does not Changleput shew its use? If there are no Advantages why does the Enemy shew such a Regard to Gingee? tis garrison'd though they have but about 300 Men in the Field and we near eight hundred, and as they make it their Grand Magazine we have great Reason to apprehend 'tis but of too much Consequence.

10. Captain Browne could not undertake a Thing that was very uncertain and contrary to a General Opinion. He obey'd his Orders. Going chearfully in a Boat is of more Benefit to the Service than for any one to say he would go in a Nutshell instead of a Butcher's Tray.

11. The strictest Scrutiny was made into the Grievances complain'd of, the Answer to Mr Lawrence's Letters shew the Nature of them.

12&13 In regard to Winter Quarters, the President left it to Mr Lawrence, he took the Field and came to Wandewash, though the Morattoes render'd it detrimental that the Troops should proceed any further in the Arcot Country, yet they might have staid at Wandewash or Chellepet, these Places afford as good Quarters as St David. Matters were upon a more easy Footing with the Mysore King, he had just sent the Morattas to join us and Mr Lawrence's Letters mention they might be rely'd on. The following Letter from Captain Clive (who was acting at that time) to the President gives his Opinion that Gingee & Chellepet might have been reduced viz.

"Sir

"I have receivd your Favour of the 4th. the Party

Fort St George. January 1753

Paragraphs in Mr Saunders's Letter of the 5th Dec.

"said to be at Sadras never came so far by some Miles as I
"certain gone to Gingee.

"Mr Walsh has communicated to me your Letter
"on about Wandewash being the Winter Quarters. I am certain the
"my staying there will be most for the Interest of the Nabob and
"Company; Hyder Saib rents Countries to the amount of ten lacks
"of Rupees and he assures me if the Marattas come that way he
"Coast will suffer greatly, besides Wandewash is better calculated for
"annoying the Enemy, it is from Gingee about the Distance of twenty
"five miles and the same from Chellapet which are the only two Places
"of Consequence now remaining in the Enemy's Possession, if in the
"fair Weather he may easily master the latter, at the same time
"the Horse do their Duty he may surround the former, if Supplies
"are effectually cut off from Gingee it cannot hold out till January,
"that is the only way of inducing it, I shall settle the Jaghire Country
"with the Nabob's Duty & return to Madras being for the present

"Respect

"Your most Obligd humble Servant

"Robert Clive

*Towards Conjeeveram.

Tyoor Camp
5th October 1752.

The Troops remaining abroad at Trichenopoly was of
infinite Service it prevented the Enemy's making their Approaches
and so far from it's being the Opinion of every Officer at Trichenopoly
to go on, that had such a Step been taken it would have been vehe-
mently protested against. In regard to the Preservation of the Hor
the tenderest Regard should be shewn and it's not known there
hardly a Town but what is capable of quartering the Troops, a
few days Rain cannot be esteemed a bad Monsoon. What was the
Consequence of their going into St Davids? Before they had been

22

Fort St George January 1753

Paragraphs in Major Lawrence's Letter of the 31st December

Above sixteen Days, Mr Lawrence wrote us 'twas absolutely necessary they should immediately take the Field and now they have an Enemy abroad but before they had none; the former was certainly the Time for the Nabob to push his Success

14 & 15

Mr Lawrence's Calculation of saving is wrong, the only way to save is putting the Nabob in a way to support his Cause, the Nabob's reducing Chettepat Gingee were the points in view, by being abroad and not going to Trivady where there was no Occasion for paying Visits and the Enemy had no Horse there. What the President says of the Nabob has been already taken notice of, but this is quite foreign to the purpose; Surely Mr Lawrence ought always to consult with the Nabob and learn from him what Advices he receives and the Intelligence brought him, this does not any ways imply an implicit putting in Execution what the Nabob says, nor by consulting with the Nabob can we suppose he would be the Less a Judge but rather more capable of determining. It seems very particular that best part of an Army of near six hundred Men should be sick directly and the Question may be reasonably asked why they were not sent into Garrison as they fell sick, for only one hundred were sufficient for the Security of Trivady. If the Adjutants Books were examined as to the Number sent in and at what times, there's Reason to believe it will not accord the Number of Sick in the Garrison of Fort St George, allowing for the different Proportions, besides Trivady is allowed by Officers that have been there to be capable of affording good Quarters to a much larger Number of Men than were there.

1

23

Fort St George January 1753

Bragnation Major
Lawrences Letter of the
21 Dec. 16.

Fear is allowd to be a prevailing Principle in Despotick
Governments, but 'tis not found by Experience that we have
Force sufficient to strike it to Effect.

17 V 18

The Nabob as well appear by his Letters, always wants
taking the Field and complains of his Eyes at a pretty large
distance
at Trivedy, The President may often easily judge that a parley
Car Point guards will produce an Advantage but from hence
not be inferrd that he will immediately and absolutely order
Commander to do it, he will consult with them and learn their
Opinion, Thus in regard to Winter Quarters, may have led
Mr Lawrence to follow his own Judgment he thought it adviseable
be to take the Field, more than once mentions Pallepat as a
manner that expressd a particular Warmth for it. In regard to
heavy Cannon, Changleput was not taken till the 1st October,
that night Orders went about the heavy Cannon, the 2d to be
morning, though Mr Lawrence had never made the least mention
of them, Orders were sent to know if he should want them, but
Captain Clive had wrote before about them and surely Mr Lawrence
would have immediately sent for them, Mr Lawrence has been
ready acquainted that Captain Clive declares he had no such Or-
ders, nor was there any Occasion for Carriages to fetch Cannon
from Arcot.

20

The Opposition mentiond is not proved on one Side
ye second, The Incursions of the Morattas were the Reason for
not advancing to Conjeveram and allowd to be sufficient, Chute
put would by all Accounts on sitting down before it have surrendered

24

Fort St George January 1753.

Paragraphs in Mr Lawrence's Letter of the 31 Dec.

22

An Officer that behaves bravely merits greatly. Before Mr Lawrence took the Field Mr Pepungton was offer'd a Lieutenancy of the Train & told he could not possibly have a Lieutenancy in the Infantry as it would be injustice to several Officers that had behav'd well. When the List of Officers was sent Mr Lawrence forgets that the President wrote him that if he had err'd twice for want of Information, he took it verbally from Captain Clive as We had no Returns.

23

It is not plain where any Hint is given of Mr Lawrence's Neglect of the Service, our Letter of the 11th Ultimo was in answer to several of his and contain'd no more than Quotations from the Correspondence and its Design was to remove those Difficulties and promote Harmony which is our Desire. We have already remark'd that a few days Rain cannot be call'd a bad Monsoon and that Trivedy is capable of quartering a much larger Force than ours was.

24

Mr Lawrence has always been and will be consulted, Orders have and will be constantly sent him; Harmony and Friendship we hope will prevail and Success attend our Arms.

X

The President lays before the Board the Military Correspondence viz.

Major Lawrence writes that as he would willingly take the Field as soon as possible he desires positive Orders without which it will be impossible for him to act. That he is informd a Court of Enquiry is ordered upon Lieutenant Deman and is of Opinion Captains Clive and Maskelyne are the proper

Captains

25 Fort St George January 1753

Captains to assist at it

Captain Dalton at Trichenopoly advises that the Mysore Horse are returnd from Madura to Syringham and that the whole Forces there amount to about four thousand foot besides Men, part are encamp'd under the Walls and the rest are in the Pagoda; That the Dalaways People continue to collect all the Grain about Trichenopoly to the very Walls and frequently appear in small Parties with drawn Swords to the great Terror of the People and even came to one of the Advanced Posts but on the Seapoys there preparing to receive them they thought proper to move off; That finding he could obtain no Redress from the Dalaway may be ordered the Guards at the Advanced Posts to fire on them if they attempted to cut the Paddy, in consequence of which there had been a slight Skirmish at Mayconda with a Party of the Enemy wherein several of them were wounded and have not since appear'd; That Murdar Ally Cawn Phousdar of Velour takes every Opportunity he can of distressing the Nabobs Affairs by spreading abroad false Rumours; That the Dalaway cannot plainly Kenealy Row his Vakeel is detained here and wonders that the Nabobs Friendship should be preferd to his.

Captain Sanderson at Arcot mentions that the Nabobs Officer there having discharg'd near a thousand Horse besides a Number of Seapoys; they went to the Phousdar of Vellour who has entertain'd them and they are now plundering all the Country about Arcot. That he has receivd Advice a party of about six hundred Morattas and four hundred Seapoys

28

Fort St George January 1753.

At a Consultation Present

Thomas Saunders Esq Gov. Pres.t
Charles Boddam Henry Powney
Alexander Wynch John Smith

Monday the 8th.

Two Letters from Messrs Starke & Lawrence dated
Copies whereof follow. viz.t

To the Honble Thomas Saunders Esq

Sir, Fort St David 3d Janry 1753

We have been waiting impatiently for an answer to that part of our Letters desiring your and the Councils positive Orders for acting with the Nabob against his Enemies and that you would tell us in particular of what Nation these Enemies are; As this appears to be a difficult point to determine since the Morattas have joined the French, who in Conjunction distress us to the utmost of their power we hop'd you would sooner have replyd to what we wrote for. Major Lawrence cannot pretend to attack the Enemy without it which may be of the greatest Detriment to the Service in general.

The French Camp has moved from that door towards Sriveedy, this makes it absolutely necessary that the remaining Part of our Force march there and accordingly Major Lawrence sets out on Friday or Saturday, but we beg you wont delay sending the Orders that are wanted for he positively will not act offensively till they arrive for fear if You should differ in Opinion with him and condemn what

29

Fort St George January 1755

what he does. We should be glad to know if you approve of
our buying Horses to compleat the Troop as we have only
twelve private Men for Patroles at present.

We think as the Enemy are so strong in Horse and
we have so few that it would be proper to write again to
the King of Tanjore and press him to join us. We send
the Nabob to do the same. We are with the greatest Respect

Sir,

Your most Humble and
most Obedient Servants
Richard Starke
Stringer Lawrence

To the Honble Thomas Saunders Esq
President & Governour &c. Council
of Fort St George

Fort St David 5th Jany 1755

Honble Sir & Sirs

The Enemy having collected a very considerable
Force together which are now encamp'd within five Miles of Trivady
We are unanimous in Opinion that Mayor Lawrence with the Ma
jority of the Troops take the Field immediately and pursue
the Plan he shall think most proper to promote the Interest of
the Honble Company & Nabob. Every thing has been ready for
several Days and we only waited your positive Orders and
Instructions that have been so often requested so that if any ill
Consequences should be brought on by these Delays we cannot
be answerable for them. However Mayor Lawrence will act to
the best of his Judgment till he hears from you, which we are
in hourly Expectation of.

As the Morattas have entirely Drawn
off

Fort St George January 1733

off the Mask and appear Declared and open Enemies we have sent Captain Dalton Word it is our Opinion he ought to act immediately against the King of Mysore and distress him to the utmost of his Power if he does not instantly consent to recall Morarce.

We are with the greatest Respect

Honble Sir & Sirs

Your most Humble and
most Obedient Servants
Richard Starke
Stringer Lawrence.

As the foregoing Letters do not acknowledge the Receipt of the General Letters dated the 30th ultimo but expecting impatient waiting for Orders it was imagin'd that the Letters might have miscarried, on Receipt therefore of that dated the 3d Duplicates were forwarded the 6th Instant and the President at the same time wrote as follows.

To Messrs Starke and Lawrence

Fort St George 6th January 1753

Gentlemen

I have receiv'd your Letter of the 3d Inst the joint Letter and one to Mr Lawrence was dispatch'd the 31st Ultimo by a Cattemmaran.

I am apprehensive the Tangeman Hon will be delatory and this is Sampetrom's Opinion, I have wrote the King in the strongest Terms and now repeat them

The Nabob has lately sent some Letters and Papers said to come from Balasaltan, his impotent

to

Fort St. George January 1753

to judge whether it is not a Contrivance of his. The Contents are to assure him of his Friendship and desire we would continue our Assistance to him; the inclosd. is Copy of one receivd by Morarao who reports that Salabat Jung will go to Aurungabad and Balaee rao is on his March for this province & that there is great Discontent among the Omrahs at Salabat Jung's Proceedings. In his Letters to the Nabob he mentions having wrote to Morarao & the Mysore Dalonay but as not really so very little Regard is paid to his Letters, should he come this way would it not be proper to send a Packet to him, the French will certainly endeavour to gain him to their Party. Perhaps a Present might have Weight.

The Nabob some time past sent me an order for the Payment of three Lack, it is quite imperfect as there is no Annuldars Name mentiond; I therefore returnd it to him and desired he would send me Orders according to the Paper N°2. inclosd.

With this is one to the Nabob and another to Captain Dalton I am Gentlemen

Your most Obedient
Humble Servant
Thomas Saunders

Major Lawrence's private Letters to the President are also read & mention that he imagines there must be some Mistake in the Commissions of Messrs Com & Harrison as their Seniority would entitle them to take Rank before several in the List & to be made Lieutenants. That he only waits for positive Orders & to be told in particular who are the Nabob's Enemies before he takes the Field. That a Reinforcement of the Nabobs and our Sepoys having been

Thomas

Fort St George January 1753.

thrown into Trinomaly, the besiegd made a vigourous & successful Sally beat the Besiegers out of the Village & took five Pieces of Cannon, some Prisoners Colours and a great deal of Ammunition. Thus Enemy's Commanding Officer & four Europeans were killd with many Seapoys & our Loss very trifling

The President in answer desires to be informd where the Mistake lies in the Commissions of Majr Crow & Harrison, that he is informd they are ranked according to the Date of their Brevets.

Captain Dalton at Tschenapoly writes that five hundred Tanjorean Horse & one thousand Seapoys are near Coladdy under the Command of Gorry row who has succeeded Morarjee & that he has wrote him very fully. That the Mysore Camp without the Walls of Syringham he thinks cannot consist of above five thousand Horse and he imagines if his Seapoys should behave but tolerably he could attack them in the night with great Advantage however in case he should find it requisite to make such an Attempt he shall leave a sufficient Force for the Security of Tschenapoly and a Guard to the French Prisoners. That the Rajah has desird the President will in ten days declare what Sum he intends his Money should be paid in or not that he may take his Measures accordingly.

Lieutenant Innis's Letter from Chamalpet contain only a Repetition of the continual Ravages committed by the Enemy in those parts & his Distress for Money, for want of which most of the Native Horse Carpenters Bricklayers Cooleys &c. are deserted to the Enemy.

Lieutenant Smith at Covelon alias Sandet Bander

Fort St George January 1753

Bander mentions that there are two hundred and fifty of the Enemy armd with Matchlocks at a Village about ten miles from thence That the Demolition goes on briskly but he is at a great Difficulty to procure Provisions for the Workmen that it will be impossible for Catteramans to transport the Guns from thence either while the Northerly Winds continue, he desires Orders.

Lieutenant Bullock writes from Covaverie that Abdul Vahab Cawn joind him the 5th with about two hundred Horse and one hundred Foot but without Ammunition and their Arms are in such bad Order that it will be to no purpose to march 'till they are better furnish'd. That the Nabobs Brother would be glad to purchase three or four hundred Stand of Arms and desires to know whether we can furnish him.

The President return'd for Answer that we have no Arms to spare.

He also wrote to Captain Dalton that he think'd it very necessary a Quantity of Grain should be secur'd and that he must press the Tanjoreens to joyn him.

Which the Board approve.

Agreable to what Lieutenant Smith writes We are of Opinion it will be impossible for Catteramans to bring the Cannon &c. from Saudet Bander during the Northerly Monsoon, Agreed therefore that the Ariel Snow be dispatch'd there for that purpose and that a Detachment of Militare be sent

on

Fort St George January 1753

on her to oppose any Attempt the French may make to interrupt the Demolition of that Fort

Tho: Saunders
Chas Boddam
Henry Powney
Alex. Wynch
John Smith

At a Consultation Present
Thomas Saunders Esq Gov Pres.t
Charles Boddam Henry Powney
Alexander Wynch John Smith

Monday
Jan 15th

The Military Correspondence read.

Major Lawrence writes from Camp at Tiverty that he arrivd there the 6th that the 9th in the morning a strong party of French & Marattas brought three pieces of Cannon to play near the Village and fort on our Sepoys whereupon he detach'd the Grenadiers & Piquet to oppose them & follow'd himself with the rest, that he soon took their Guns and pursued them four miles in which several Smart Rencounters happen'd, but could by no

Fort St. George January 1783

means bring them to a General Action though their whole Force or the greatest part came to support their Van But the Enemy behaved in the most cowardly Manner not daring to come within reach of the Nabobs Shott, by which means the Morattas suffered great by and all the Artillery taken belonged to Morarow, or our part lost several Seapoys and had a good many Europeans wounded, amongst whom Lieut.t Morrice in the Knee but not dangerous That he is informd Morarow is greatly disgusted with Mons.r Blanc who commanded the French Forces for not supporting the People, which may have a good Effect. That the Tanjore Horse have not yet joind the Nabob but that he heard a thousand of them are within two days march and he has wrote to their Commanding Officer.

Captain Dalton at Trichinopoly advises that in order to keep his Seapoys in readiness having found it necessary to encamp without the Town, the Rajah was much alarmed and sent Kirnudy Cawn Word he would recall Morarow but when it came to the Point he declard that he would do it only in case the Nabob would give him the Fort or a Crore of Rupees, that thereupon and having at the same time received certain Intelligence of Morarow's Hostilities, He, at Kirnudy Cawn's Request determind to make an Attempt on the Mysore Camp and accordingly after leaving a sufficient Security for the Garrison marchd in the Night and although five hundred of his Seapoys mistd their way in the Dark yet with the Rest of his Men he attackd their Camp with such Vigour & Surcess that in less than three Quarters of an Hour they were entire Masters of it having lost but one European and two Seapoys wounded, that

having

Fort St George Jan

during the whole Action his Military

and never offer'd to plunder; The Shapoy

of Horses Tumbrels and as much plun

that upon this Succes he resolv'd to Bo

Coming Night, the Event of which he

Letter viz.t

Trichen

Sir

In my last I gave

ing routed the Rajah and Morarow's Camp

their having Shelter'd themselves within

of which last Night I resolv'd to bombar

attack'd a Choultry within six hundred

me easily carried and having Coolys C

intrench'd the Part of it that was open to

put a Company of Shapoys on the Top

as Strong a Post as ever I saw and no

as Trichenopoly. When I had regulated

Wilky and Crow there with seventy Mus

Shapoys and Lieut.t Wood with a three

Half Pound Gun. For till the greater

with the Remains of my Command within

support them

The Enemy appear'd a

made a Push with their Shapoys at the

pulsed with great Loss and no small Sl

however again about twelve o'Clock with

and Foot all round. The bloodiest Action

3.7

Fort St George January 1753

has ever been seen in this Part of the World for they had advanced
their Peeces with Bang and they rode on very surprizingly However
as their Horse made the boldest Attack and I was sure the Foot were
no Danger from them we kept a hot Fire on them, and repulsed them
twice leaveng the Ground strewd with their Dead, Notwithstanding
this they made a third Charge and our Rascally Seapoys set
way which discouragd the Europeans so much that though they
had but two or three wounded and close entrenchd they quitted their
Effects and ran out of the Post, the natural Consequence of which
was that the Horse instantly charged them in their Disorder and
killd or wounded almost the whole, notwithstandeng the Fire of
my Party; Encouragd by their Succeps they made a vigorous Push
at my Party but I had rallied the Seapoys and placd them behind
a little Wall to receive them & we sent them off in great Confusion
they rallied again & came up with great Fury calling us all by
Names they could invent, but our Grape Shott annoyd them so much
joind to our continual Fire of Musquetry that they were obligd
to retreat and we kept our Ground, The Nabobs Horses of which we
had about forty, galloped a little way after them and took two
Horses of those that were killd, The Rajah has just now sent
Word that he desires a Cessation of Arms that both Parties may
bury their dead of which there is more than ever I saw in my
Life all put together. Youll certainly perceive Sir that if my
People had not so imprudently quitted their Post we had gaind a
compleat Victory; These are Accidents Mankind cant foresee with
regard to myself I leave the Nabob who was a Spectator from the
Wall and publick Report to satisfy you of my Management
and what Efforts I made.

Lieutenants Wilkey and Crow with about

July

Your very obedient Servant
J. Dalton

The President's Letters are to the following
Effect viz.t

To Major Lawrence that the Catteramaran Ketches carried the General Letters of the 5th Instant directly to Pondicherry and delivered them to Mr Dupleix and as this is an Affair of Consequence we are endeavouring to find out the Agent that the Nabob's Horcarrs from Balazarows Camp report that Salabat Jung had told the French to return to their Settlements which was not granted and that Chanoes were contriving to destroy them, that Balaram was on the Banks of the Kistnah with seventy thousand Horse, twelve of which would be sent to the Nabob's Assistance with a Serpaw and Phoonkaur from Salabat Jung for the Carnatick

To

At a Consultation Present
Thomas Saunders Esq.r Gov.r Presid.t
Charles Boddam Henry Powney
Monday the 22.d Alexander Wynch John Smith

General Letters from Messrs. Robert Westgarth and Thomas Taylor at Syriam read as follows viz.t

To the Honble Thomas Saunders Esq.r
President & Governour &c.a Council at
Fort.t St George

Honble Sir & Sirs

I now send you an account of my Proceedings in regard to the Reestablishing this Factory.

I have received by the Porto Bello the Saadias

Fort St George January 1753

sixty Men as near as I can compute are missing. When the Enemy retreated I brought off the Wounded in all about nineteen Men with Lieut Wood who I hope will do well. I'll send you particular Returns to morrow; as well of the Military as Seapoys. Of the latter in the whole Action I believe we have near one hundred missing. The Enemy themselves own nine Jemidars and five hundred Men killd besides Numbers wounded. The Nabob says they have lost above six hundred men and I really can't see how it could be otherwise - Since the Action no Hostilities have been committed on either Side; The Dalaway has wrote the Nabob a sort of palavering Letter in which he says we had best be Friends. I have turned out the Mysoor Peons and the Killedar has a Guard over Pawre so that all is quite easy within. I sent the Peons out with their Arms, Baggage and every thing that belong'd to them

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Fort St George January 1783

To Captain Dalton that as our Loss on the late Action was much more considerable in proportion than the Enemy it behoves him in future to be extremely circumspect and that he should have disarm'd the Mysore Peons when he turn'd them out of Trichenopoly

Which the Board approves

Hon: Fort[illegible]

Geo: Baddam

Henry Lowndes

W Lynch

John Smith

40

Fort St George January 1753

Sundries your Honour &c. thought fit to send for Presents, but as they were not near sufficient I applied to Mr Thomas Saylor to supply me with what I wanted from him, which he readily did, I presume you will think the Presents Extravagant, but as the French had given such large ones before, that I did not care to make my Honble Masters look mean for a Trifle as thought better to equal the French than be behind with them

On the 28th Ultimo I went to Pegu with the Present & Letter & carried with me Messrs Saylor & Grenson, as, which I sent to inform the King of our Arrival, who gave us an immediate Audience and received us in great State and after presenting the Letter it could not be read that day so were desired to wait on him the day following, he enquir'd Mr Saylors Business which I told him was to settle the Negroes & when he found it belong'd to the King of Pegu he came immediately here to apply to him for it, on which the King said they were right to apply to him as that was a part of his Dominions and of the Company had mention'd Mr Saylor to him in the Letter that he should have the Negroes or any place that might suit the Company's Business which gave us some Satisfaction, that the King should promise it before he had read the Letter, accordingly we waited on him next day where he received us on his Throne with his Crown and Robes & sat the Head of his Nobles which was an honour he did not pay the French which they seem to be affronted at and after giving us a Welcome he had the Letter read; appointing me President of this Place on which he was well pleased & promised me all the former Priviledges that ever the Company had & he would send his Brother to Syriam in two or three days to deliver me the Ground which was done in great State and Form on which I

made

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made the Preliminaries inclos'd & shew'd them to Upper Rajah at whi[illegible]
he was very well pleas'd and gave me a Phirmaund for the Factory
with all former Privileges, so beg you will favour me with your In-
structions how I am to proceed in regard to this Place & answer re-
the Saluting of Ships that Salute the Flag and as the Factory is
a Heap of Ruins I should be glad to know what State it must be
put in, for the present I am putting a Pandore Tent over the
but as this place is subject to frequent Fires in the dry Season it
would be safest to have the House and Banksalls built with
Brick and a Plank Fence round the Bounds as was formerly

After having done our Business with the King we
waited on Upper Rajah who gave us many Assurances of their
Friendship and gave us his firm Promise that nobody should have
the Negrais but the English Company tho' the French had applyd
for it before but had been denyd, Mr Taylor seem'd a little un-
easy they did not give him immediate Possession, we press'd him
much to give us Assurance that the French should not have it
which he has done in as solemn a Manner as Words will produce
and when you apply for it you will find they will not deviate
from their Promises and as it will be attended with a new Ex-
pence, you may have both Negrais as easy as one and in my
Opinion the great Negrais will be of as much or more Advantage
than the little ones, be pleas'd to apply for them both in your
Letters to the King and Upper Rajah and write them both a
Complaisant Letter of Thanks for their favours to me which will
be kindly taken by them and please to let your Letters be wrote
in the Malabar Language as that can be best translated here

and

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and send Copies of them in English that we may know the true Translation.

I have look'd all about this place for a ballot Spot for our Factory and have had the Advice of Mr Taylor and the other English Gentlemen here concerning a Place that I had pitch'd upon, but they find many Inconveniencies which has made me leave off all Thoughts concerning it

I am with great Respect

Hon^ble Sir & Sirs

Syrian
the
10 October 1752.

Your most Obedient
Humble Servant
Rob^t Westgarth.

Preliminary Articles agreed to by Hyppo Raja on Sunday the 1st October 1752

Article 1st That all Places in the Kings of Pegu's Dominions that ever belong'd to the Honble Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies be deliver'd to Mr Robert Westgarth their Resident for their Use with all their former Privileges and Liberties to be granted to them and the Government of this Place are not to interfere in any Affairs that may be detrimental to the Honble Company or any British Subjects under their Flag

2d On the Arrival of the Company's Ships immediate Dispatch to be granted on their Arrival; and the Company to pay half the Duties other Merchants pay and the Goods to be taken as they arise and not to be pack'd and all Money and Stores for the use of their Shipping to pay no Duties.

3 That all Differences among Strangers that are under the English Flag are to be decided by the Resident here and not to be permitted to apply to the Country Government and

all

Fort St George January 1753

all our People are to be punished by our own Laws

4 That all the Honble Company's Ships may not stay
to go from this Place according to the Dispatch that their Affairs
may require acquainting the King first of it and the Governors
of Syriam are not to be of any Hindrance to them but to assist
them as much as may be requir'd and to be permitted to trade
to all parts of the Kingdoms of Pegu and Ava and to export the
Commodities that those Kingdoms produce

5 That all Merchants that buy our Goods on Credit are
to pay for them according to Contract and not to return them
back on our Hands unless we be willing to take them and
that we have Liberty to imprison or use them as they deserve

6 That on the Death of any British Subjects here, the
Government are not to interfere in any Respect concerning
their Estate on any Pretence whatever

7 That the Company are permitted to build and repair
whatever Ships they may have occasion for and you are to assist
them in procuring Timber Plank &c as their Affairs may
require and you are not to take our Lascars nor protect them,
and in case they make Application to you, You are to send
them immediately to the Resident

A true Copy

Robt Westgarth Secrt

To the Honble Thomas Saunders Esq
President & Governour &c Council of
Fort St George

Honble Sir & Sirs

This is to advise you I have sent the Loop
Fortune to Vizagapatam with the Duplicates of my Letters sent
by Captain Jenkins, But as to late in the year she could not
arrive

Ad

Fort St George January 1753.

arrive time enough with you to send any Advices with the Shipping bound here and She will be able to come back at any time with any Advices your Honours shall be pleas'd to send. I have ordered Captain Hammond to follow the Orders he shall receive from Mr Pigot.

Since my last Upper Bazar has ask'd me to spare him what Ammunition I can as he has a great Demand for it; I have let him have ten Cask & told him it was all I could spare at present and when that was us'd he would write me the Necessity he had for more I would let him have what I could, he ask'd me if I would sell it, I told him I had no Authority for so doing but as we was the King of Pegu's Friends I did not doubt but the Company would assist him in any thing that was in their power. I have nothing more at present to acquaint you with but that I am

Syrian
14th October 1753

Honble Sirs &c &c

Your Honours most Obedient
& most humble Servant
Thomas Taylor

General Letter from Messrs Starke and Lawrence acknowledging the Receipt of our Duplicates of the 30th Ultimo and assuring us that they will never scruple to give their Opinions freely on whatever may occur & that Mayor Lawrence will write the President constantly of the Steps he may take

General Letter read from Father Angelo de Sperstitio at Ceylon who stiles himself Ambassador from the Emperor, asserting his Masters Claim and pretensions to the Ground whereon that Fort is built and consequently to the Fort itself

45

Fort St George January 1783

itself and protesting against the Demolition of it. Agreed that a Letter be wrote him by the President acquainting him that the Fort is the Nabob's whose Ancestors built it and by his Orders it is now demolishing, that we have nothing to do with it but are ready to do him any Service in our Power

The Military Correspondence read viz.t

Major Lawrence writes from Camp at Cuddapa that he is of Opinion no time should be lost in sending Troops to Balazaroa and endeavour to secure him by Presents or Promises for should he be otherwise than our Friend the Province will be over run. That he don't think it adviseable to attack the Enemy without some Horse to cover the Flanks and the Sepoys have not yet join'd the Nabob, their doing it at this time would be of great Advantage as a successful Attack on the Enemy would be particularly serviceable Should it prove true that Salabat Jung is gone to Aurungabad and that Balazaroa is coming this way That the Enemy are entrenched on the Banks of the Pennar River and he is inform'd their Scheme is by small Parties to cut off our Provisions on which he thinks they cannot succeed; that as the Seasons of Action will to all Appearance be in this Province he thinks it would be proper to write immediately to the other Settlements for all the Troops that can be spar'd, That with respect to the Officers Commissions he apprehends Mr Patterson and some others who are made Lieutenants were Junior Ensigns to Messrs Crow & Harrison and that the last named Gentleman had a right to be promoted Senior to them.

Captain Dalton advises that since the late Action the Enemy keep close within the Walls of Cuddapa and beat the Negors

Fort St George January 1753

Nagore all Night, that his Command is now so much reduced that he dare not venture near enough to Combard it but that he fires an eighteen Pounder into the Pagoda every hour which cannot miss killing many Men and Horses as they are so crouded, that notwithstanding the late Loss he thinks he has yet sufficient Force to protect the Chenepatty but if it should be judged proper to dislodge the Mysore People a Reinforcement will be necessary as well as the Europe Horse

Captain Sanderson at Arcot advises that he is informed the French who were at Vellour are gone to Pondicherry with some Treasure and that Morari Rao the Bramin has made two unsuccessful Attempts upon Chittour but still continues there which has induced him (Sanderson) to detach one hundred and fifty Seapoys with a hundred Horse to the Assistance of that Place

Lieut Billock writes that he arrivd at Coyeturr the 18th and having Intelligence that a Party of three hundred Horse Seapoys with some Europeans and two Field Pieces were at a Village a few miles from thence he immediately marched to attack them but before he could reach the Place they fled to Trenches which on his Approach they abandond to him and he took Possession of the Pagoda

The most material Part of what the President writes to Major Lawrence are as follows viz.

"A Credit can be given to the Report from the "Naick and others concerning Balaccarow he is an open Enemy "rience inclined has sufficiently convinced us that Alliances with that "People are very precarious, if a moderate Present could be allowed "with any Certainty it might be an Inducement to make it but as "no Testow as largely as Salabut Jung the Mysore King and the "if not I am apprehensive a large Present from them would not

" up ours; he said a Body of Salazarons People are detach'd to join
" the Nabob.

" You judge extremely right in regard to the most
" of Horse & cannot be too circumspect. I wish I knew how to remove
" this Difficulty, but the only Resource I can think of is for them
" of Tanjour who has wrote me he has sent one Thousand

" I should think the Moratta's in the Neighbourhood of
" Pondicherry must be very inconvenient to the French and if true your
" Men, Expences must run high; I conjecture Mr Dupleix expects
" Reinforcement from the Islands, from Europe I dont suppose he
" will have any before next Season, and if any are design'd them
" from the Malabar Coast, Mr Dorrill who is a near Neighbour to
" them there is quite silent

" I now enclose you a Court of Enquiry before whom
" some Depositions have been taken in regard to Mr Bevans, I have
" avoided the Severity of putting him under Arrest and as this Af-
" fair concerns Captain de Gingens Reputation, the Opinion of your-
" self and all the Officers would certainly be agreeable to him and
" much so to me. Two Evidences depose the Truth of it, Mr Bevan
" denies it, I am a Stranger to what Reparation is usual on these
" as, to ruin him I think is rather too severe

" In a former Letter I mentioned to You, Majr Hall
" and Robinson who were willing to take Service.

" As Affairs are, Captain Dalton must be con-
" cumspect and reduce his Plan to a much narrower Compass.

" Of two Packets from Mr Boyd today we have
" been spared by the Moratta's so that I have no Advices

The Board having considered of Major Lawrence
Advice

Fort St George January 1753

Advice to write to the other Settlements for what Troops they can spare are of Opinion that it may be of great Service to the Affairs on this Coast, Agreed therefore to prepare that Point to the Gentlemen at Bombay and Bengal

The Board having also deliberated on the Intelligence lately receivd from different Quarters that a large Detachment from Balazarow are arrivd on the Banks of the Kistna and that he has accommodated Matters with Salabat Jung who is gone to Aurungabad are of Opinion that as the French will very probably endeavour to ingratiate themselves with Balazarow (whose Force is capable of turning the Ballance to which Side soever he inclines) we should if possible prevent it and that the most natural Means in our power are to send a trusty and capable Person to him to offer an Alliance and at the same time advise him to send a Body of Troops to the Nabobs Assistance which if we should be so fortunate as to succeed in may be the means of restoring Peace and Tranquility to this distracted Province, of humbling Mr Dupleix's proud Spirit and reducing his Ambitious Schemes to their proper Limits.

The Ariel Snow purchasd by Mr Hunter for the Company's Service having on a Survey been found unfit for that Purpose and therefore Ordered to be sold and as the Negotiations now carrying on at Pegu require a Vessel of small Burthen to be constantly employed between this and that Place it is thought more for the Company's Advantage to purchase than hire one at Freight and the Fortune Sloop lately returnd from thence (a Vessel proper for the Occasion being offerd to Sale for fifteen hundred Rupees which on a Survey is judgd

Fort St George January 1753

a very moderate Price, he Agreed to purchase her on our Owners Masters Account for the aforesaid Purposes

Thos Saunders
Chas Boddam
Henry Lawrey
Alexr Wynch
John Smith

At a Consultation Present
Thomas Saunders Esq Gov President
Charles Boddam Henry Lawrey
Alexander Wynch John Smith

Monday the 29

The Military Correspondence read and

Major Lawrence observes that Affairs to the North ward seem to be in such Confusion that nothing but Time will unfold the Mystery and shew us who are Friends and who Enemies that if Balazarow should come this way we certainly ought to endeavour at securing him in the Nabobs Interest but that when he was found at present he did not mean to use in that particular with the Mysore King but only proposed it as a Mark of our Esteem and perhaps the securing to him the Chout of Arcot might engage him to act with us; That he is in hopes the Sarjeant Major will soon

Fort St George January 1753

soon join the Nabob which will remove many Difficulties. That he does not imagine we have much to fear from any Reinforcement the French may expect as they'll hardly outnumber us in Europeans unless the Grand Army should come down and by all Accounts that is pretty well employed. In relation to the Appointment of Officers the Major expresses himself as follows.

"As I mention'd a great while ago that whatever
"Officers you appointed or promoted would be agreeable to me, and ab-
"solutely declin'd having any further hand in it, I must beg you'll do
"as you think proper with Messrs Hall & Robinson, only I must again
"urge that all Vacancies be fill'd up the Moment they happen for the
"Service requires it

Captain Dalton at Trichenopoly writes that he Lays ferving into Syrangam with two eighteen Pounders which he is inform'd annoys the Enemy so much that they are going to encamp on the other Side the Calderoon; That the Rajah's Horse have not appeard of late and that Morarao has sent him a very profsing Letter for his six hundred Horse to come and join him immediately That if the Sanjour Horse were to join him Dalton from, it would be of the greatest Advantage but he cannot attempt any thing without them; he is inform'd if a Detachment was to march through their Country they would join him.

Lieutenant Innis at Changleput writes that the several Parties of the Enemy who infest and plunder that part of the Country having made a Fort call'd Cauvandypollam about fourteen Miles from thence, the place of their Retreat and Magazine for Plunder, he detach'd Ensign Monchenin with fifteen Europeans and one hundred Seapoys to attack it which he did with great

Bravery

Fort St George January 17[illegible]

Bravery and took it That there are ten Large Villages [illegible]
on it and he thinks one Company of Seapoys would be [illegible]
Force to defend it

Lieutenant Bullock advises that he [illegible]
to abandon Trividore for want of Provisions and could not [illegible]
any of the Nabobs People to stay without European [illegible]

That on his Return to Conjeveram he was informed a Party of
French Seapoys and Morattas there had attacked and drove the
Nabobs Seapoys and Matchlock out of Mandoor, whereupon he
marchd against them and retook the Place That he is informed
by all the Nabobs Officers none of his People will fight any more
at their Posts because their Pay is five or six Months in arrear

The President's Letters read

The most material Part of what he writes

Major Lawrence is as follows

„Captain Dalton has wrote for a Reinforcement, if the King of Tanjore would join him it might be of
„Service, if not I think he had better endeavour to March what
„Provisions he can into Fort and not make any Attempt on
„Tyrungam

„I suppose the Nabob communicates to
„You the Advices he receives from Balaseram that it would be need
„less for me to repeat them, I have received a Letter from him complaining
„Orders for the Payment of Batta to the several Detachments & of
„some Money in part of his Debt but so little Regard has been paid
„to his former Directions that I much doubt whether they will be of
„any Signification He says that Salabat Jung will send him a
„Sanad for the Carnatick and gratify the English in giving them
„several Countries, He has often wrote this, He mentions also that

Salabat

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Fort St George January 1753.

„Salabat Jung had been greatly distress'd for Money, that Moorar Rao
„Cawn had solicited for the Great and Soubahship Countries, that
„the Mogul had visited Gauzeden Cawn's Son and given him a Sanad
„for the Decan Country and that Balazarow expected a great
„Value for him.

„Its impossible to judge of particulars, I think
„the French are not in so much Credit as formerly & that Salabat
„Jungs Affairs are distressed while the French and the Morat
„ta are making their Advantages, what I am most apprehensive of
„is that the French will ingratiate themselves with Balazarow; Our
„Purse is but weak and a small Present would be of no Significa-
„tion, The only thing I can think of is to send a Person to him and
„offer an Alliance, at the same time desire he would send a Body
„of Troops to the Nabob's Assistance. There is another Effort, but I
„am apprehensive a large Body of Morattas would entirely ruin the
„Province, that is to promise to assist him against the King of My
„sore.

„As I before wrote I am convinced the French want
„a Reinforcement, their Numbers are very inferiour to ours, Imean
„Europeans, it might be difficult to attack them in their Intrenchm.ts
„but if you were joined by the Tanjoreens could not you encamp so as
„to distress them for Provisions and oblige them to move.

„The Nabob should by all means fling a large
„Quantity of Grain into the Several Forts but he is negligent in
„this as well as other Affairs, pleases to mention it to him.

„Inclosed is Copy of a Letter from Captain Dalton,
„by Horses sending for his Horse it seems as if they intended an
„Engagement. „I am apprehensive you'll be under some Difficulty
„by the want of Horse, by what Captain Dalton writes it's probable

Fort St George January [illegible]

a small Detachment sent to Sanjour might quicken them [illegible]

Sir

Your most Obedient Servant
Tho[s] Saunders

To Captain Sanderson at Arcot that if the Nabob's Amuldars will not pay the Seapoys 'tis impossible for us to support the Expence and if they refuse to do it, the Seapoys must be discharg'd

To Captain Dalton that we shall consider of what Measures are to be taken in the mean time it is necessary Convoys Cavan should get as much Provisions into the Fort as possible

To Lieutenant Innis that the Reduction of Carangoly pollam is an agreeable Service but that we cannot spare Seapoys to Garrison it and if we could it would only be an Addition to our Expence as the Nabob's Amuldars can't pay the Batta.

All which the Board approve

Tho[s] Saunders
Geo Boddam
Henry Strahey
Thos Hastings
Tobias Smith

Fort St George February 1753

At a Consultation Present
Thomas Saunders Esq. Gov. President
Charles Boddam Henry Bourney
Alexander Wynch John Smith.

Monday the 5th

The Military Correspondence read.

Captain Dalton at Trichenopoly advises that his continual Sining into Syringham so much annoyd the Raja that he has been obligd to move out and encamp close under the Wall next the Calderoon with a high Mud Wall round his whole Camp that he has found means to keep the Morattas with him who are very diligent in stopping all Sorts of Provisions from going into the Fort, that the Rajah has receivd a Reinforcement from Caroor and gone out he expects four thousand Horse from Tanjore, that the Tanjore Horse are encampd near the River but have not joind him and seem to be frightend at the Threats of Morarow & the French

Captain Sanderson at Trich. writes that the Party he sent to the Relief of Chilkous has been repulsd with the loss of their Gun and Ammunition, that the Place is closely besiegd and must certainly surrender very soon if not relievd but that though Abdul Vahab Cawn has been several Times advisd of it, he continues at Cogeveram without making any Attempt to succour it

Lieutenant Bathack writes that upon Intelligence of a thousand Sepoys & Matchlocks, a hundred Morattas two Europeans and fifteen Topasses with five Guns being near Sundore he immediately marchd and attackd them, that the Engagement lasted about an hour and proved in the End successful having

taken

Fort St. George February 1753

taken their Guns and Ammunition with a great many small Arms the Nabob's Horse pursued them two Miles and took six Europeans and ten Topasses with some Seapoys who are all dangerously wounded

Lieutenant Smith at Custon advises that the Road Snow which had been driven to the Southward is returned to that Place and that he hopes he shall be able soon to despatch her.

On receiving Captain Sandersons Letter advising the Distress of Chittoor, the President wrote to Lieut. Pollock to march immediately with Abdul Cadar Cawn's and our Sepoys to the Relief of that Place and after finishing that Affair to return to Conjeveram.

Which the Board approve.

Tho. Saunders

Geo. Pocklington

Henry Lewis

W. Monckton

Jno. Smith

56

Fort St George February 1753

At a Consultation Present

Thomas Saunders Esq. Gov. Presid.
Charles Boddam — Henry Powney
Alexander Wynch — John Smith.

Monday the 12th

The President Lays before the Board the Military Correspondence which is read.

Majo Lawrence advises that the Army having been oblig'd to march from Trivedy to Tevenduputtam as an Escort for Money & Ammunition the Morattas surrounded them as soon as they were out of Trivedy Village & made several Attempts on their Rear and Baggage but without Success though they made the March very long & troublesome and were oblig'd to dispute every Inch; that we had about eighty Sepoys wounded, one European Kill'd and three wounded and their Loss was more considerable — That in the Absence of the Army the Enemy appear'd before Trivedy and the French Commandant sent two Troopers to Capt. Chase with a verbal Message summoning him to surrender the Fort to the Nabob but on the Killedar's Refusal they thought proper to march away the same day and the Morattas with great Indignation follow'd them. That Morarow seems to be greatly disgusted at the Cowardly Behaviour of his Allies and sent a Message to the Nabob telling him he was sorry such old Friends should quarrel and that he would return to his own Country. That the Tanjour Horse have not join'd the Nabob though he sent a Detachment to meet them. That he has spoke to the Nabob about providing for his Garison which he has promis'd to do. The Major also endorses a Letter

to

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to learn from the Mysore Dalaway full of heavy Complaints and insisting on being paid what the Nabob owes him or to be put in Possession of Trichenopoly

Captain Sanderson at Arcot and Lieut Baillie at Wandewash advise that Murtaza Alley Cawn the Velore Phousdar in the Absence of our Forces under the Command of the Latter, raised the Siege of Chittoor and retreated to Nellore from whence he has sent Proposals of Peace to Abdul Wahab Cawn.

Lieutenant Innes at Changleput advises that one French Volunteer & four private Men had by the Carelessness of the Seapoys made their Escape, That the Nabob's Amuldar has promised as soon as the Paddy is cut (which will be in about a Fortnight) to lay in a sufficient Stock for the Use of the Garrison.

Lieutenant Smith at Covelong writes that every thing being now in readiness it is resolved to blow up the Gateways of the Fort to morrow

The Presidents Letters are to the following Effect viz.t

To Major Lawrence, that as to the Dalloways Letter, his Demand cannot be complied with for the reasons often mentioned That if Bataviaw should come this way he thinks the best Step would be for him to encamp beyond Arcot and detach ten or twelve thousand Horse which might be sufficient to settle Affairs here That he has again press'd the King of Tanjore to send his Horse. That 'tis probable the French will receive a Reinforcement That by an intercepted Letter it appears the Commanding Officer at Madura is acting for the French, That Captain Polier's Company of Swiss will be sent up further from Bengal

To Captain Dalton that a Reinforcement is on

58

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cannot be sent him at present, that his chief Care must be the Security of the Fort which he must not expose to any Risque

To Lieutenant Bullock directing him to return with the Forces to Conjeveram

Which the Board approve

Tho: Saunders
Chas Boddam
Henry Lowry
Wm Lynch
John Smith

11
13

In consequence of the Resolution in Consultation the 22 January that it would be advisable to send a Vakeel to Balazarow; the President after a careful Scrutiny into the Character & Capacity of Kistnarow Punt thinking him the properest Person at present to be found to execute this Service accordingly appointed him thereto and he set out this Morning with Instructions proper & agreable to the said Consultation and a Letter from the President to Balazarow dated yesterday, assuring him of our great Satisfaction on hearing of his Intentions to settle his Province that this has been our sole View which the Mysore King and Morarow have prevented, that we desire he will send ten or twelve Horsemen to the Nabob which will soon effect it, that we would willingly join him according to his Desire but our moving would give the

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Enemy an Opportunity of burning and ravaging the Country but
we are willing to enter into the Alliance with him and as soon as
Officers are settled here, assist him with our Troops

14 Received a Letter from Captain Dalton at Vedavanoply advising
that Lieutenant Wood is dead of the Wounds he received in the
Action, but the other wounded Men are on a fair way of Recovery
with. That there has been a Skirmish between the Shanoys and
some Moratta Horse to the Disadvantage of the latter who retir-
ed into Syringam. That the Morattas have intercepted and taken
two hundred Bullocks loaded with Rice that were going to Ven-
nopoly. That Balazarow has wrote to the King of Tanjore
he is coming to visit Rameseram Pagoda and desires he will
prepare for his Reception, he has also wrote to the same Effect
to Tondeman, Maravar and the present Raja of Madura

15 Received a Letter from Major Lawrence at Trinedy Copy
whereon he mentions that the President having acquainted him
Captain Clive is to resign his Employ of Steward at the End of
this Month when a new one is to be appointed he had consul-
ted himself what saving might be made in Rations the
Military and finds that four fanams a day for each Officer
will be fully sufficient

16 A Letter this day received from Captain Dalton mentions
that he is informed the Dalevay is preparing to march
and that a Detachment of his Troops are going to the
of Dindegal which it is reported the Cottays have besieg
but that it wants Confirmation

18 Lieutenant Cuthbert writes that the Nabob's Brothe
having proceeded on him to go towards Cottaver to rai

Contribute

Fort St George February

Contributions in the March Way took a Strong Pagoda where the Enemy had left a hundred Sepoys and Matchlocks, That Abdul Cabal Cawn has received a Letter from the Killedar of Veloor wherein he refuses to pay any Tribute and says he is ready to engage him if he comes that way.

On Receipt of which Letter the President wrote to Lieutenant Billhock to return to Conjeveram immediately in, penalty of his Commission agreeable to the former Orders sent him which he ought to have obey'd notwithstanding any Persuasion of the Nabob's Brother to pursue contrary Measures.

19 Lieutenant Grenville at Tonnamalee advises that a Party of five hundred Moratta's have been plundering near Mavenpalam and drove off a great Number of Cattle.

20 Received a Letter from Major Lawrence, Copy whereof follows viz.t

To the Honble Thomas Saunders Esq.r) Trundy Camp Febry 15th 1753

Sir,

I have received your Letter of the 10th Inst. it is very certain that the Dalonays Friendship would have procured us Peace or ruined the Nabobs Enemies long since; but if you look on him in the Light I do, as an ambitious Man not content with the quiet Possession of what he has but who wants to enlarge his Dominions and make an Advantage of the Country Troubles, it will appear we have no good to hope from him in any Rate, His Turn is an Sanyour as well as Treachery and unless you gave into his whole Scheme (which would have The King of Mysore & President that Dalonays Hope Letters guaranteed under of Pechana him which have still hindered would be taken but he refused to make good upon the President the Major that he obtain his Demand complyed.

Enemy. His hesitating to produce the Letters he talks of makes me think the whole Affair is without any Ground, however if

will

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will be a Colour for detaining Vencatrow as long as you please

Baladaroo's Vakeel was with me yesterday & renewed

promises a lasting Friendship on the part of his Master & he will

glish and Vabot Inside he could be prevaild on to send for

twelve thousand Horse this way, we should soon be able to do the

Business here and carry the War a little further off if it was necessary. He seems greatly incensed against the Nabob Mohammed

the King of Mysore, and the assisting him to reduce him to Obedience is the best way of gaining him to our Interest I have wrote

him a Letter of Compliment and pressd his letting us have some

Horse speedily. Would not it be proper to prepare an Answer

for him containing an Account of the part we have acted and

what Steps we have taken in the present War; That we have at

this time but to settle the Peace of the Country and that we should

be glad to meet him with all our Troops and Artillery if we were

not certain that the Enemy would take the Advantage of our Absence and plunder and destroy all before them; Something of this Kind

backd with a small Present might I think obtain us a perfect

Cessation which would do much better than the whole

The King of Tanjore has behaved very ill of

deceiving us but we must make Allowances for the Country Affairs

and he seems to be threatend with plundering should he not re-

A Recruit of Officers will always be agreeable

Mess.rs Merriman and Lyon are Clear at St Davids

In regard to Mr Dimare I can't wonder

please me better to have had him disgraced than permitted to

resign the Service, for unless Examples are made we shall

have

Fort St. George February 1753

have People kicking against their Commanding Officer every Day however it will be necessary to write to the other Settlements that he may have no Chance of getting employed there if he is to remain in India

I am glad the new Howard will have every thing in readiness and shall like to hear the Contracts you have made with him. I addressed you and the Council the other day on this Subject and had the Pleasure to tell You the Military may be withdrawn for near two Thirds of the present Expence. When I reflect on the Prodigious Saving to our Honble Masters the regulating this one Particular will give according to my Calculation which makes it amount to no less a Sum for two thousand Men than one hundred & eleven thousand /111000/ Rupees in one Year should the Troubles continue so long, which God forbid, It makes me sincerely hope no more Time will be lost in setting heartily about the Reduction of Expences in other Things that greatly want to be enquired into. I desire you that I have not given my Opinion without considering every Circumstance if you can get nobody that will undertake to dress the Soldiers and Prisoners for four fanams a day each I am ready to do it myself and if ever I propose any Scheme of saving for the future you are at Liberty to make the Experiment on me first, if it appears impracticable to those who would make Fortunes out of the Company's Additional Charges and find nothing too exorbitant that brings in money; for I shall always think myself happy and my Time well spent if in the Course of my Duty I can by any means contribute to their Benefit, however

1 A

Fort St. George February 1753

I have sworn to be faithfull

Two French Troopers summond

the Name of the Nabob but did not tell who he was Con[illegible]

to their Demand reply'd no which was all the Discourse that pass'd

I hear Monary Ram is dissatisfied with us

French because they dont pay him & wont fight, their Excuse is

cant hunt us if we had but Horse.

I shall speak to the Nabob about his

Orders; His Brother must be made to take Notice of them

We have not been able to get any more

Horses, Maskelyne wrote me some time ago that Cotterau was

appointed Adjutant. I have heard of Abdul Bob Cawn being

Seen the intercepted Letter from Madura

I hope the Swiss will behave better

here than at Bengal; Captain Polier will be a good Reinforce-

ment. I should think a great many Men might be spar'd from

Fort St. George for Mr. Hunter without weakening us and your

Garrison would be well mann'd as Officers are at present with a

hundred Europeans in it. However if you are of another Opinion

Please to order as many from hence as you judge necessary.

Six French Deserters are come over

who make their Europeans but two hundred and sixty. Dissatisfaction reigns amongst all their People. I have Letters

both Armies are inactive as it would not be worth our while to

attack them without doing it to the Purpose and the Nabob's

Horse are not worth Sixpence.

Serjeant Dickenson at Tschenapoly is

recommended

recommended by every one he has servid under as a carefull Man and fit to succeed Lieut Wood, if therefore you think proper to make him a Train Officer I believe it would be for the good of the Service I am with the greatest Respect

Sir

Your most humble and most
Obedient Servant
Stringer Lawrence

22

The foregoing Letter having been communicated to the several Gentlemen of Council and their Opinion taken thereon the President on the 24th Date addressd the Mayor as follows

To Stringer Lawrence Esq

22d February 1753

Sir

I have received your Letter of the 15th Instt without number and that to the Governour & Council of the 16th

I am glad you concur with me that the Expences may be lessend in during the Military, it shall be settled as soon as possible

What you write concerning the Dalawayes Ambition and his possessing Tritchenopoly and Tanjore is of your recollect our General Opinion entered upon Record before you left us, Should Balazarow come he certainly will by a large Sum endeavour to gain his Point,

I dont hear any thing lately of Balazarow or his Troops being advanced nearer Sadras before advise of our having sent a Vakeel to him from whom I hope to learn his Intention, his Vakeel has been here, with the Dalaway, the French Mosaic, the King of Tanjore and the Nabob to inform himself of all Circumstances, his Master promises very fair, I wish his and our Interest may be the same as I am perswaded he will do his own Business.

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Inclos'd is Copy of a Letter receivd from the Rajah of Tanjore, what I thought proves to be the case, he alledges that his Harvest Time and is apprehensive of his Country being plunder'd if you think his Horse would be of more Service than one hundred of our Men you may make an Offer to send that Number to act with his Troops in the Tanjore Country.

It's said the French will leave from Bengal about one hundred Men, most of them Swiss that have deserted from us and Men from on board our Ships and I believe one hundred and fifty more from another Quarter.

Captain Delpuygens would I believe have been satisfy'd with a less Severe Penalty than the taking away Mr Mare's Livelihood if ill natur'd People had not concern'd themselves with it.

I suppose the Nabob has given you a Letter wrote him by Mr Dupleix concerning dieting the Prisoners.

I shall order Serjeant Dickenson a Commission

If you see the Non Necessity of the Sergeants please to give me your Opinion whether you think any thing can be done without them.

I can't see how it's possible for us to move any great Distance to join Balaseram, the Enemy must stand under and destroy

every thing. I am, Sir

Your most Obedient Servant

Tho. Saunders.

22 The President also wrote this day to Captain Dalton directing him to urge in the Strongest Terms to Kiroudy Cawn, the necessity of storing the Fort with Provisions.

23 Letters from Captain Dalton say that there is yet no Certainty but a very great Appearance of the Patamays moving but about four hundred Moratta Horse are marchd to join Morarao that the Buzuars have of late been plentifully stord with Rice and other Provisions but Kiroudy Cawn as yet takes no Measures

for

Fort St George February 1753

for filling the Magazines

24 Lieutenant Bithock writes from Chittoor that he finds the Nabobs Brother is deceivd in his Expectation of raising large Contributions & that he is not likely to get even a Sufficiency to pay his own Troops that above a hundred of them have offerd to leave him on account of their Pay for four Months and twelve Days Batta being in Arrear

25 Lieutenant Innes at Changlepet advises that having prohibited the Aumildar to lay in a Store of Paddy for the Garrison he replyd that he is obligd to dispose of it as fast as he receives it to supply the Nabobs Demands. That a Party of Moodlers having appeard in Sight of the Fort he detachd nine Europeans and Sepoys in pursuit of them who retook a Quantity of Paddy they had plunderd in the neighbouring Villages and a Number of Cattle they were driving off.

Tho. Saunders

Geo. Woodham

Henry Dawley

Wm. Monckton

John Andrew

Fort St George February 1753

At a Consultation. Present
Thomas Saunders Esq Gov. President
Charles Boddam Henry Powney
Alexander Wynch John Smith

Monday
the 26th

General Letters from Vice Admiral Watson &c
Thomas Taylor read as follows viz.

To the Honble Thomas Saunders Esq
President and Governour &c Council
at Fort St George

Honble Sir & Sirs

I hope you have received my last by the Yorkshire Grey and Fortune Sloop and now with a great deal of Sorrow am to inform you that after the Arrival of my Ships with the Treasure &c you sent Mr Taylor Viz, we went to Pegu to inform the King what Money you had sent which they have taken one Part for an account of Customs and Custom House Officers and the King has let go his Part and says when the Company sends a great Ship of Guns he will then take his Customs but I suppose he has his Reasons for doing this as he intends to send but a Ship to Madrass

In which time my House was unfortunately burnt with almost every thing in it and all my Books & Papers entirely consumed with many other Things of Value, I have saved great Part of the Iron now but there is some of it melted that I cant as yet exactly tell what, but it is no great Quantity, I now send you an account to the best of my Remembrance what I have received and disbursed, having bought Plank for the Gun Carriages & Sundries for the Repair of the Sloop which is almost completed, where Safe & Peggy and one Cable with many Things of Captain Greenows did. Mr Taylors which were put into my House for Safety are entirely consumed with some of the Carriages and their Moulds, & shall send what

Plank

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Rank I have left, on the Sloop. This Fire happend the 28th Ultimo at night, by what means I know not but there are many People here when they want to plunder will go in the Night & throw Fire on Straw Houses on purpose to accomplish their wicked Designs and I know not but this may have bin my Case.

Arriv'd here the 4th of November Mons. Bruno from Pondicherry in a small Sloop of about forty Tons who promised to bring the King many fine Cloaths with a Diamond of half an Ounce Weight and five hundred Small Arms but has fail'd of all and brought only a small Present and a Letter from Mr Dupleix, a Copy of which I now send you according to the best Translation I could get.

To the King of Pegu

„I sent my People into your Country last year to desire you to deliver them the Ground the King of Siva formerly gave „the French Company which you have done and gave my People many „promises of your Friendship & that you would send your Ships to my „Port but I have see none yet, and am surpriz'd you dont keep „your Word with me for I have never seen any King that ever be„long'd to you but a Letter where nobody on my Country could read „so have sent Mr Bruno again to you to know what you entend to do, „and if you chuse to keep my Friendship I desire you will help Mons. „Bruno to get the new Ship done with the utmost Dispatch and the „Eight Guns he lent you last year, you must deliver back to him for „the use of the Ship, and on his Departure I have order'd him to deli„ver the Factory to the Rev. Padre Paulo Nerini till such Time as „I send my Orders to him

Pondicherry
September 1752

„I am
„Your Majesty's most humble Servant,
Dupleix

Sir

Fort. St George. February 1753

This Letter was such as the King of Pegu is not accustom'd to and far from being wrote in a pleasing Stile to receive the Guns back which were really given to him, since which Time the King has not nor will not see Mr Bruno, but has desired upon Oath to give him some fair Promises which he is very capable of doing but always finds some Excuse for his Non compliance. Mons Bruno has been so dearmuring greatly to hurt us by telling Hyppo Rajah not to give us the Negrais for the Company wanted to make a strong Fortification there and the Queen of Hungary was to send four Ships to join us to come here to revenge the Death of Mr Schamanette. And Mr Bruno plice had given him express Orders to communicate this as a great Secret to the King, to be on his Guard against the English. His Discourse was very private with the Rajah, Bruno, Coja Nicous and Padre Paulo Nivini who was Linguist. This Secret came to be by a Confidence of one of the above to an Ecclesiastical Friend of mine here, who told me the whole Affair which gave both Mr Taylor and Me some Concern and when we waited on the Rajah the other Day, I asked him whether it was true or not that Mr Bruno had been relating such a Story to him, he seemd to evade the Discourse, so I told him in his own Language not to deceive me for I knew it to be true. Then said Bruno had been telling him the Queen of Hungary's Intention of sending here to join with us, on which I told him if they came here we were ready to fight them, he then desird I would give him a Place near Cuma Bucker, near the Rivers Mouth and they would make a Fort to keep away the Offenders. I told him I could not permit him any such Place so dismiss'd him and desired us not to mind Bruno, for neither the King nor he would believe a word he said after telling him so many Untruths already.

I must request your Honour Chief will please to permit me to build a House to secure your Property from the frequent

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frequent Fires that happen there and should be glad if you would send me a Plan of such a House as you may think proper for me and as I am obligd to go often to Pegu it would be necessary for some Person to be here with me to take care of the Factory in my Absence and if Captain Emerson had not been here you would have been much greater Sufferers than what you are

You may depend on my Care of the Money you sent me and I shall be as frugal in my Expences as possible and doubt not on time but some Investment may be made for the Company, as there is a great deal of coarse Cloth made here and all of the Produce of the Country Cotton, but the present Difficulty is that there is no Security for the Merchants Property and hope if the Negoce is settled it will make an Alteration of Affairs here.

The King, as a Mark of his Favour, has ordered me to make a Gold Bottle Case, a Gold Sword and Gorgelet with a Gold Lace being the greatest Badge of Honour in his Country and denotes I will mean that to command Respect, but I shall defer any thing of that Kind till I have your Honours Approbation and as you please to refer me to be in the Manner that Mess.rs Smart & Kelsall was I shall be glad if you can give me any Information. Be pleas'd to comply with the inclos'd Indent, as the Stationary and Cordage were all burnt

I am with great Respect

Honble Sir & Sirs

Your most obedient humble Servant

Robt Westgarth

Syrian
May 5th 1753

To the Honble Thomas Saunders Esq
President and Governour & Council
of Fort St George

Honble Sir & Sirs

Your Favour of the 29th October came
hand the 21st December with ten thousand Rupees (Rupt 100
Neptune Snow

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The frequent fires that happen here makes House Rent very expensive, I have had my House almost pulld down & should have been burnt out had it not been for the People about me; Mr Westgarth had the best House in the Place and was burnt out the 28th of last Month at the Time I do and saved but little with a great Loss as very little was saved besides Silver and part of that melted and run amongst the Rubbish the Snow has lost all her Sails but two that was making great part of her Rigging and one of her Cables, I have lost part of my Goods likewise which I sent there for Safety and Captain Grierson has lost to the amount of Six or Eight hundred Pagodas in Goods

Mr Westgarth and I visited the King and Upper Rajah at the Time Mr Bruno was there he met with a bad Reception as the King did not like the Letter from Mr Dupleix which Mr Westgarth will send you a Copy of, We was received very handsomely by the King, after making our Compliments, Mr Westgarth talked smartly to him and Upper Rajah about their giving the French the Ground they had as it belongd to Mr Saunier who was an English Subject, although a Frenchman born, all they could say was that they did not know but that he was a French Subject and that we had no Claim to it — However he ordered our Grounds to be enlargd and desird Mr Westgarth to [illegible] an Equipage such as his great Men has, it consists of a Gold Betle Box a Gold Pipe, a Crooked Sword Scimeter with Gold, a fine Pillow and a Cuglet with a Gold Lip to it, the King said would command Respect amongst his People and that he may have as many Armed Men go before him as he pleases any where but at Pegu. His Majesty gave us an Audience of two or three hours & talkd to us in a very amicable Manner, He and Upper Rajah seems to be to be Politick Men, and will make a Discovery very dexterously when

Yes

12

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they don't like it and never want an Excuse to evade any promises they make and when they give any Orders to any Europeans for the Government here, they obey or disobey just as they please and to complain is no more than to make Presents again and the same Orders is given and servd as before without any Notice taken; By this I have seen many Instances with the People who are building of Ships.

Mr Bruno May'd some time after us at Pegu Court for Padre Don Paul de Novoa and Joja Nicous to be witness of the Contract Upper Rajah had made with them as he pretended he had lost, however at last it was found at his Intervieu they desird Upper Rajah to speak to him in private. The Substance of their Discourse was that Mr Dupleix had ordrd them to tell him and the King not to give us the Negrais for that as soon as we had got it some of the Ostend Ships our Allies in Europe, would come there and would assist us in making a Fortification and then we should endeavour to take the Country from them. Mr Bruno had the Assurance as soon as he come down to beg the Favour of Mr Westgarth to lend him some Paint to finish his Ship, as Mr Westgarth did not then know that he had been sayeng any thing to our Disadvantage he let him have some, Bruno then acquainted Mr Westgarth that he had told Upper Rajah upon his Refusal of the Guns that if we did not take care we would come & take them from him, that Upper Rajah smild in a Surprize and said what will the English make War against us; Yes indeed says Bruno no; Well says he we can fight too. This I suppose was the Answer he made when they related the above Story. Mr Westgarth will inform you how he found out the Discourse of the private Intervieu with Upper Rajah, this made us very uneasy, and we determind to go to Pegu as soon as I could go out as I was then much out of Order

and

and the Neptune's Arrival put us off till the 26th December we then went to Pegu and visited Uzpas Rajah whom we acquainted with what we heard of Bruno's Discourse with him, he deny'd it at first by telling us they had ask'd for a Place in the face River where they would make a Fortification and so be a means of affisting them against the Offenders but we insisted upon what we had heard to be true which he could not deny and said neither he nor the King could put any Confidence in what he said for he spoke nothing but what was Untruth, We said what we could to convince him to the Contrary and told him we only wanted to Trade and hop'd that he would assist us therein and that fighting was always an Enemy to Merchandize and that we had no other Views in the War on the Coast than to assist the Nabob of the Country who gives Liberty to trade there, He desir'd us to make ourselves easy about it for he did not believe a Word of the Matter, We went from him to one of the Kings Sons who was to embassade us to his Majesty, acquainted him with our Story, he said he had upbraided Bruno with his former Practices and Nonperformance before & that he did not believe a word he said and promis'd to speak to the King in our Behalf when Opportunity would, The King sent word he would grant us an Audience next Morning, we went at the time appointed, he enquired of our Business, M.r Westgarth acquainted him with what his Vessel had brought and desir'd to know the Customs he must pay for the Honble Company's Treasure &c. he said for what was come now he would not take any Customs for himself only that we must pay what was for the Godown &c. that was over and above his Customs and was a Perquisite belonging to his Post which amounted to one p.r Cent and when the Honble Company sent a Quantity of Merchandize he would then let us know what the Customs was to be, The Discourse was taken

Fort. St George February 1753

taken away from us by the Arrival of some Letters so that we could not proceed with our Story but as we was seated next the Privy Counal we let them know what we had to say to the King concerning what the French had told Upper Rajah, they said it was not a proper time to talk of that then but they would acquaint his Majesty of it at a more convenient Opportunity and at the same time would say what they could on our favour. They further we had not made them any Presents, I promis'd the next time I came to bring them something, and whenever we visit the King, Upper Rajah &c we are always oblig'd to carry a present, and judge of the Sincerity of our Friendship by the Presents we make them.

Since I wrote your Honours last I find the news of my being at the Negrais put the King and Government in great Consternation, as it was rumour'd about that four Ships full of Men was likewise there, and the Burmahs took it for granted that we was coming to assist them but I hope his Majesty is convinced to the contrary.

I have had two Offers of Custom to visit me at different Times by order of the Governour there. He with the Rest of the Officers sent me their Compliments & Thanks for the Presents I sent them when I was there and was very desirous to know when I should be with them again. As their People went to the King I enquired what he said about our Settling at the Negrais and by them I find the King does not seem inclinable to give us that Place but some other Place not under their Eye.

I have now sent you some different Sorts of Cloth that is made in the Country to the Westward of this Place this Cloth is brought here in small Boats for Sale, I have put

over

Fort St George February 1750

upon each Piece the Price I bought them at and what Cent made them I do not doubt but large Investments might be made at time & Quantities of Woollen Cloths sold if we can secure Merchants Properties by having a Fortification and a Government of our own, All the Merchants here are obliged to rem poor whether they are so or no as this Place is so near the King for if they get a man worth any money the King or some of his Government are sure to bring him into some Snare and make his Pocket pay for it It is a piece of Policy of the Kings to keep the People poor more especially the Burmahs and then he thinks they can't make head against him, there is no such Law in the Country as makes a man stand to his Contract and if a man gives his Note of hand for a Sum of Money for a Parcel of Goods payable at such a Time he may chuse whether he will pay or not, if the Seller sues him for the Debt he will apply to the King and Government and plead Poverty, they think they do an Act of Charity to the Distress'd for more property the Villain's by ordering him to pay as he can and the Merchant ord to press him any more, I seen an Instance when I was at Pegu last, By this your Honours may be a Judge how Trade can be carried on in this Place, the Country will produce a great deal of Cloth & other Merchandize if the People was not afraid of being oppress'd when they grow rich by the Government for the Commonalty of them seem very industrious for there is not a House but what has a Loom from the Prince to the Lowest Sort.

The Channel at the Entrance into the Negrais is very good and by observing the Directions that is on the Coasting Piloy any Ship may go in with Safety. It is high Water on the full & change Days about 10 Clock abreast of Pagoda Point. I am, Honble Sir Your Honours most obedient and most humble Servant — Thomas Taylor

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Fort St George February 1753.

The President lays before the Board a List of Sundries which Mr Hunter thinks necessary and desires to be furnished with for the Expedition to the Negrais, Ordered that it be deliver'd to the Storekeeper who is directed to prepare them accordingly

The President acquaints the Board that since the Resolution on Consultation the 22d January for disposing of the Ketch Snow, Mr Hunter has represented to him that he thinks that Vessel, being commodious both for Men and Guns may be serviceable on the Expedition either as a Guard Ship: to cover the Works, defend the Approaches at any particular Pass or to lodge the People till Houses or Barracks can be prepar'd to defend them from the Inclemencies of Weather Agreed therefore that the Sale of the said Snow be defer'd and that She be put under Mr Hunter's Direction

Thos Saunders

Henry Davey

Wm Lisle

Edwd Ayles

Fort St George March 1753

At a Consultation Present

Thomas Saunders Esq. Gov. Presid.
Charles Boddam Henry Powney
Alexander Wynch John Smith

Monday
the 5th

The President lays before the Board a Letter received from and two wrote to Major Lawrence since last Consultation which are as follow

To Stringer Lawrence Esq. ... 27th February 1753.

Sir

A Sea Conveyance offering gives me an Opportunity of advising you that since I wrote you I have received Letters from the King of Tanjour, he still urges the plundering his own Country as a Reason for his not sending his Troops, I hope the Expedient mentioned to you on my last will remove it, He and the Nabob have sent some Hircaras here who are going to Balazaroo, desiring I would write by the same. Our Letter has been gone some time, I hope soon to hear from them, I shall write by these Hircars but don't think it prudent to be too open as the King of Tanjour at present acts a neutral Part.

Inclosed is Copy of a Letter said to be wrote by Mr Dupuis to the Nabob, please to advise me whether to communicate Affairs of this Nature to You.

Abdul Wahab Cawn instead of protecting the Place adjacent is gone to Tinnivery, the Letters I receive from him and the Nabob have generally nothing in them but Requests for Men and Stores and idle Compliments but I find it difficult to get any money, I have applied to the Cazeneveese Renter who says he has not a Cash, the Nabob may have Poverty but I know he gets Money Some means must be thought of

Esqr

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Fort St George March 1753

General Letters from Messrs Robert Westgarth and Thomas Taylor at Syriam read as follow

To the Honble Thomas Saunders Esq
President Governour &c Council at
Fort St George

Honble Sir & Sirs

I now send you the Duplicates of my last on the Honble Company's Sloop Porto Bello, which has had a Moneys Repair with Invoice, Bill of Lading & Sloops Accounts for the Months of January & February and as my Books and Papers were all burnt I can't give you the particulars of the two preced Months, there was a good deal of Money laid out for Stores for her Repair which were all destroyed along with those you sent for her, Otherwise send you Cash Accounts for last month, I have sold the Bale of Broad Cloth, you sent me on the Neptune but have not carried it to your Credit as the Sundries there sent me were burnt and I don't remember the amount of the Invoice but so soon as I receive the Duplicates shall carry it to account The Cash lost by the Fire is one hundred & ninety Rupees

I am sorry to tell you of the growing Insolence of Coja Nicous, who has done all he can to ruin all the Company Affairs here and a few days ago fell upon a Chief Officer of a Ship in his Bankshall & beat him in a most miserable Manner with out any Reason, when I reproved him for it he dared to make but little Account of what I said, I then went to the Durbar to apply for Justice for the Affront he had offered to an English Subject under my Jurisdiction where he with his Accomplices went & frightened the Linguists that they durst not tell what we had to say, I reproved Nicous for the ill Usage he was treating the Company with, he said he did not mind the Company nor what they

Fort St George March 1753

could do to have it then apply'd to the King and Upon Report and desird they would not let the Company's People be ill used in this Manner, the Latter has promis'd to enquire into the Affair and then will give me Satisfaction, I hear the Rajah has given him a severe Reprimand and has promis'd me that no such Proceedings shall happen again

The King is erecting a spacious Palace and sent for Mr Taylor and me to compliment him thereon and after giving him our Answer he kept us two days and shewd us a great deal of Respect, In which time for a Nicety a second Time could some Armenians get a Commander of an English Ship into his Bankshal and wanted him to Sign a Paper against his Consent, which he refusing to do till I came from Cape, they threaten'd him with the Rock & sundry other Punishments till at last he sign'd what they wanted, he has gone so far as to say publickly in his Bankshal, he will have the Colours taken down and all the English taken out of the Country. I have not said any thing to him here for I find it avails nothing I believe he is coming over in the King's Ship and I hope your Honours will treat him as he deserves, He and an Italian Priest is erecting a Church here which to me seems to be a Fort cover'd with the Name of a Church, and as these two People are much in the French Interest, makes me believe there is some secret Design in their Strong Hold, more than for the Service of God.

I long to hear from you concerning the Negroes Here is a Person here I believe has desir'd Mr Dupleix to apply to the King for it, but I hope he will be prevented.

I shall take care to procure what Plank Iron

for

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for the Carriages; but at present the King's Palace takes all the Timber & Plank that comes, what formerly was Two or Three Pecals they now ask Six & Seven for

Since writing the above arrivd a Moors Vessel, advising me that the Fortune Sloop is safe arrivd at Tragapatam & I hope you have receivd the Advices sent on her

I am with great Respect

Hon^ble Sir & Sirs

Your most Obedient

Syrian
18th Febry 1753

Humble Servant

Rob^t Westgarth.

To the Hon^ble Thomas Saunders Esq^r
President & Governour & Council of
Fort St George

Hon^ble Sir & Sirs

I have herewith inclosed the Duplicate of my last which I sent by the Neptune Snow, the Perplexity I was in on her Departure on account of the Fires which when begun nobody knows where they will end made me omit answering the Paragraph concerning the Sounding of the Negrais which I could not be more accurate in as the Sloops was so much disabled in their Rigging by the Weather coming over that they were obligd both to unrig, the Polo Bolle carried away her Topmast and Cross Yard and several of her Chain plates, what men they could spare I employed about my Breast Work wherein I laid near three Feet sand & Stones but to very little Purpose as the Rain continually washd the Earth away and my People daily falling sick with the Ague and Fever quite enabled me from keeping my Work in Repair and raising it a proper Height, and it was with the greatest Difficulty I surveyd the Island as I did so that I had no Time upon my hands to sound the Channel as it ought to be

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Coja Nicous is very troublesome to us and does all that he can to frustrate our Affairs and make us appear as disagreeable as possibley he can in the Eyes of the Government, Mr Hastgarth will inform you how he takes upon him to treat us as under our Flag and he seems to be determined to give us all the Trouble he can, he has wrote Upper Raja who seems to put great Confidence in him that we went to the Kings Court of Justice with Arms of all Sorts & frightened the Justices out of their Senses when we had not so much as a Rattan in our Hands, We went there to represent the ill Treatment an English Subject had received in Nicous's Bankshall but to no Purpose, Mr Westgarth wrote to the King about it but he takes no Notice of it, But sent for us up to Pegu with Orders to bring Blocks, Ropes & Lascars to get the Columns of his Palace erected, agreeable to this Summons we went up and arrived the 6th Instant We first visited Upper Raja and made him a Present of Scarlet Cloth and Rose Water, he sat very sullen some time and never spoke to us, Mr Westgarth broke Silence by beginning to represent the Insult we had received, He immediately started up in a violent Passion and asked if we did not ask Pardon, Mr Westgarth said he did not know what he had done to ask Pardon for, he replyd that we did not shew due Respect to his Officers that we went to the Rounda with Swords, Guns and Lances and frightend all his People, we desired he might hear our Story but in vain for he still kept his Passion, we argued with him some time and told him the Company would be very angry to hear of our being daily insulted in Syriam and he not give us Redress, He said he did not mind what the Company could do

Fort. St George March 1753.

to him neither did he care for them at all & threaten'd us much, this put us in a heat notwithstanding his Threats that we talk'd so sharp to him for his partiality that our Linguister were afraid to interpret what he said (for he had before threaten'd the Linguister to take his Head off if he said any thing he did not like) so ended our Dispute. He went out a little to see the Workmen and came in to us a Little more compos'd. We began with him again and represented to him the ill Consequence of punishing People in a barbarous Manner without a Tryal & beg'd that he would not condemn us till he heard our Story, and that if he did not do us Justice we must apply to the King in Person, this with a little Flattery for they are a vain People brought him to a tolerable good Humour he Said he was at present very busy with the Palace but he would make Enquiry into the Affair when he had more Time and that he would take care there should be no such doings again. We beg'd of him not to forget, he said we had no Occasion to speak to the King, we promis'd we would not. The next morning we went to the Palace again and sent to acquaint the King of our being in waiting to see him; He sent to enquire what presents we had brought him & what was our Business, we sent him word we was only come to compliment his Majesty on his erecting his Palace, and sent our Presents in, his Secretary came out to introduce us and made us Promise not to talk about any Business, we was then admitted and complemented his Majesty in the most pathetick Terms we could, He thank'd us and seem'd to be sorry for Mr Westgarths Misfortune of having his House burnt, and made him a present of an Elephant

to

to help make up for his Loss but never mentiond a Word of the
Letter that was wrote him so that we took our Leave, When we
came to our Boat a Letter arriv'd from Capt Grierson giving
an Account of the ill Treatment Mr Boylard was lately to meet
from the Armenians on Nicons Banksall, Of this Mr Maycock
will acquaint you at full

The 26th Ult.o Edward Pickeryell is dead
ed and I believe is gone to Pondicherry, I dont know any Reason
for it any more than that I suspended him the latter End of De
cember for his Misbehaviour and appointed Hugh Lamb Esqr
in his Room. I am

Syrian
12th February 1753.

Honble Sir & Sirs

Your most Obedient and
most Humble Servant
Thomas Taylor

The President acquaints the Board that
Captain Dugald McEacharn Lately arrivd from the Eastward informs
him that the King of Tavoy (at whose Port he touch'd to trade)
had voluntarily offerd to enter into an Alliance with the Company
and permit an English Factory and the Colours to be hoisted there
on certain Conditions which are now produced Read as is also a
Letter from the King of Tavay, Translates whereof follow viz.

Translate of the King of Tavay's Letter to the Presidency of Madras &c
Bengal

By the Ship Dragon Captain Dugald McEa-
charn I sent three Persons with a Letter to the Governour of Calcutta
and by the same Captain I have received his Answer with Tokens
of Friendship which affords me great Pleasure from the Desire I
have to enter into a firm Alliance with the Honble Company which

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The Company's Pay during their Settlement here

If at any time War should make it necessary for the preservation of my Country, the Company shall send me the requred Succours at their own Charge till the same arrives here

The Company shall oblige themselves to send me a present yearly as long as they Continue a Settlement here.

To all which If the Company agree, they shall enjoy the Priviledges hereunder

The Company shall be permitted to purchase all the Tinn in my Country without any Let or Hindrance whatsoever and particular Ships to have only what may not be wanted for the Company

They shall have Liberty to purchase as much Grain as their Ships may require

They may build Ships Brigantines, Sloops &c and cut the Timbers which may be necessary for so doing and if they want to take any on their Ships they may have what they want

All their Ships coming to this Port shall be free from all the Usual Customs and Presents. These being the Conditions, if they are agreable to both Parties this Contract shall be of Force otherwise to be Null. Done in Tanay the 7 October 1752 In the presence of the Witnesses hereunder signed

Witnesses.

Philip da Silva
João Faria Leitão
Wm Palavicel
Luis Cillaço
Jean

Fort St George March 1752

The Contents of the foregoing being considered
the Board are of Opinion that it may be of Advantage to
cultivate a Friendship with the Princes on the Eastern Coast and there-
fore Resolved that it will be proper to address the King of
Tanjay by the first Vessel bound there and acquaint him that the
Company are well pleas'd with his Offer of Friendship and Alli-
ance and are very willing to accept it but that having been for
some time involv'd in Troubles here in support of the Country Gov-
ernment against the Ambitious Attempts of the French to raise
themselves on the Ruins of the Rightful Prince, it is at present
out of our Power to comply with the Terms he proposes of our fur-
nishing him with such a Quantity of Cannon and Ammunition
that however we desire he will permit his Britannick Majesty's
Colours to be hoisted at his Port and as soon as the Troubles here
are subsided we shall then readily enter into a Treaty with him.

Letter from Mr Thomas Combes read as follows

To the Hönble Thomas Saunders Esq^r
President & Governour &c Council of
Fort St George

Hondle Sir & Sirs

In Obedience to the Commands of the
Hondle Court of Directors, I came to this Place in order to proceed
on some Secret Expedition more immediately under the Direction
of your private Committee; But as my State of Health in general
is very bad and as I am but lately recovered from a very severe
Fit of Illness I find myself quite incapable of an Undertaking
of this Nature on which I should only prove an useless Expence
to my Hönble Masters.

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Fort St George March 1753

I therefore request your Honour &c Councils
Permission to return to my Station at Fort Marlborough where
I flatter myself notwithstanding my ill State of Health I can
still be of some Service - I am with the greatest Respect

Fort St George
1st March 1753.

Honble Sir & Sirs

Your most Obedient & most
Humble Servant
Tho.s Combes.

Agreed that Mr Combes's Request be complyd
with & the President acquainting the Board that Mr Hunter has
desird to have Mr Henry Brooke for his Assistant Resolvd that
he be appointed accordingly & proceed with Mr Hunter on the Ex-
pedition to the Negrais

As our great Demand for Gunpowder shall &
may render it extremely inconvenient for us to furnish Mr Hunter
from time to time with what he may have Occasion for, Its Agreed
to write to the Gentlemen at Bengal and desire they will send
a Sloop with Rice and as much Gunpowder and Surplowed Shot
as they can spare to him at the Negrais and also supply him
as far as they are able with whatever he may at any time want
for

Tho.s Saunders
Geo.e Bodam
Henry Brooke
W.m Hunter
John Lewis

Fort S. George March 1753

At a Consultation Present
Thomas Saunders Esq Gov. Presd
Charles Boddam Henry Conway
Alexander Wynch John Smith

Monday
the 12th

The Military Correspondence is now laid before the Board

Major Lawrence writes to the President as follows

To the Honble Thomas Saunders Esq

Camp at Trivady March 2 1753

Sir,

I have received yours Letter of the 27th of February. In regard to the Military I have ordered the People who asked for Captain Clive to dismiss them for the Company till I know your Determination which I had Reason to expect before the End of last Month.

I can only reply to the other parts of your Letter by assuring you that if I could have met with any proper Occasion for attacking the Enemy I had certainly done it, that I have left no means untryd to bring them to a general Action and that I will do every thing that lies in my power to forward the Service. But if you and the Council see further into this matter than I do which may very probably be the Case, Please to send me your positive Orders and I will strictly obey them. You Sir are the best Judge whether I ought to be forward in giving my Opinion after what has happened which I want it to be contradicted and since you are pleased to mention my concurring I would beg Leave to ask whether I ever objected to any thing you proposed for the Good of the Publick or what regard I among st other Matters I was glad to my Masters for invitualling the Soldiers offered to You and the Council in a general

Lette

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Letter from Mr Starke and myself when I was at Fort St David

Mr Starke has sent us a Thousand Pagodas by
Coss which will save much trouble. We have a great many Men
sick I have no other News worth Notice from Sir

Your most humble & most
Obedient Servant
I Lawrence

P. S. Our Force in Camp at present won't bear
to be weaken'd, besides you are not certain of the
King of Tanjour's joining. His Delays would
make bad worse

Captain Dalton at Trichinopoly writes
that although the Daloway has sent away all his Guns and Bag-
gage there is yet no other Appearance of his moving himself, he
gives out that his Brother has made up Matters with Balaza-
row for Sixty one Lack of Rupees and has agreed to take seven
thousand of his Horse into the Mysore Service and that he has
Leave to stay and blockade Trichinopoly since which his Horse
have again began to patrole & stop Provisions going into the Fort
He also reports that Balazarow's Mother is dead on which he is re-
solv'd to return back to his Country without visiting Rameseram
Pagoda as he intended. That the Killedar having lately without
apprizing him (Dalton) of his Design, sent a Party of twenty five
Sepoys and as many Coss to keep Possession of an old Village
about five Miles from the Fort, the Enemy surrounded & took most
of them Prisoners although he made a Sally by passing the River
towards Syrangam to draw them off but this had no other Effect than
entering a large Party of the Enemy within reach of our Artillery
by which they suffer'd very considerably as they did likewise in
Attempt they made on Mayconda several Horse & many of
Foot remaining dead on the Spot amongst whom was the
nidar of the Morattas. That he has lately discovered a
between the Daloway and one of his Zemindars who in
of a large Sum of Money was to deliver up the Pos

Fort St George March 1753

Water Side to the Raja. In regard to the Security of Sadrapatam he thinks (barring unforeseen Accidents) he has a Force sufficient to defend it against a much more formidable Enemy than he [illegible]

Lieutenant Billock writes that immediately on the Receipt of the President's Orders he left the Nabob who was determin'd to go further into the Country and returned to Conjeveram where he receivd Intelligence of several Parties of the Enemy's Horse being in different Parts of the Country but had not been able to come up with them, as they never fail to fly on the first News of his Approach.

Tho: Saunders.
Charles Boddam
Henry Lowry
W Wynch
John Smith

13 The President wrote to Major Lawrence as follows.

To Stringer Lawrence Esqr.

Sir

Mr Wynch has taken upon him to supply the Army with Provisions and ordered his People to provide the ne-

cessary.

Fort St George March 1753

I have convers'd with Balana Vanis Vakeel who has brought a Letter from his Master the Contents to acquaint Mahomed Ally that he may receive his Chout

Abdul Bob Cawn writes me Moodar Ally Cawn was going to Pondicherry

I am preparing every thing and shall in a few days be ready for what ever me.

The Dalaway has sent me a long Letter, the late Affair at Trichinopoly has made an Alteration in his Mind he does not think fit to send Copies of the Letters he mentions the Mild Turn I should detain Vencat Row; If a certain Affair which you are acquainted with turns out as we expect he as well as some others will alter their Reasons. As this goes overland I am cautious of writing fully. I am Sir Your most Obedient Servant

Tho^{s} Saunders

At a Consultation Present

Thomas Saunders Esq^{r} Gov^{r}. President
Charles Boddam Henry Sowney
Monday Alexander Wynch John Smith
the 19th

The President lays before the Board two Letters from Majr Charles Lawrence and one from Major Lawrence which are read as follow

To the Honble Thomas Saunders Esq^{r}
President & Governour of Fort St George

Fort St David
Trivedy Camp } 6th March 1753

We think proper to acquaint you with our Sentiments on the present Situation of Affairs & the Reinforcement which you mention the Enemy is likely to receive make it requisite

requisite that some speedy and vigourous Methods be resolved on.

Captain Dalton is able to defend Tanjore
against the Troops before it and we conceive Abdul Kohlan has
a sufficient Force to keep every thing quiet from Black Town &
in the Neighbourhood of Arcot since the coming of Balaro
is uncertain and may not be this Long time if there is any
thing to fear from him, we are therefore of Opinion the following
Plan for Action in these Parts should be immediately put in
Execution.

That (as the Enemy have drawn all their
Garrisons to strengthen their present Encampment and nearly equal
us in Europeans) a Detachment of English, Coffrey & Seapoys be
formed from Madrass, Arcot, Changlepat &c to reinforce the
Nabob which may assemble at Conjeveram & from thence proceed
to Trinomalie acquainting Major Lawrence with their Motions
who will make their joining him secure and easy while we act
in like Manner on this Side with the Troops at St David &
Tuesday wherby so large an Army will be collected in the
whole that an additional Force of 3 or 4000 will we doubt not
give us all the Success we could desire in forcing the Enemy's
Camp, opening the Country and forwarding the Nabob's Affairs.

We have thoroughly considered the Inconve
of Expence this will produce but think it ought not to be offered
as an Objection being convinced that the Method which soonest
finishes the War costs least in the End. The King of Tanjour
who now is fearful of declaring himself no longer dare to side
join us & the Dalaway be so intimidated that he might at
least be brought to Terms and return to his own Country. Let

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Fort St George March 1753.

as no longer than after uniting our Force which will make us superiour to all our Opposers but be content with doing one thing at a Time and let the Army in a regular Manner reduce Places as they fall in its Way for more Advantages are got than gain'd by Beginning at the wrong End though Success attends that particular Circumstance.

Major Lawrence wrote you some time ago what Strength he thought sufficient for your Garrison & we fancy the Invalids may very well be included in the hundred Men. As the principal Business at Chengleput is to guard the Prisoners, Topasses are very fit for that Work and Arcot seems to be in no Danger so we are perswaded you will instantly give the necessary Orders for forming this Detachment as Dispatch is of the utmost Consequence on all Accounts, and as this is the Primum Mobile of all other Undertakings we think any thing longer lost may be deserib. The Reinforcements expected from the other Settlements will still contribute to make our Success more certain which every thing depends more certain. We are

Sir

Your most humble and most Obedient Servants

Rich.d Starke

Stringer Lawrence

P.S

If the Godolphin is not dispatch'd when this comes to hand it will afford a good Opportunity for sending us a Supply immediately.

To the Honble Thomas Saunders Esq.r
President Governour of Fort St George

Fort St David
Trinedy Camp } 13.th March 1753

Sir

We are of Opinion that three hundred

Fort. St. George March 1753

Europeans or near that Number will do the Business so beg you'll send them away immediately. We wrote for all you could spare but no Time might be lost and because the Stronger we are, the more certain will be our Success which we shall have no Doubt of as we are making the necessary Preparations.

Please to acquaint us with the Latest News you have from the Northward and your Opinion of what ought to be done next in case of Victory. Let us be speedy in our Resolves & vigorous in the Execution of them, whether ought Arcott or Tanjore chiefly to engross our Thoughts. The Dalaway does much Mischief where he is. Mostan Ally is at Pondicherry.

We are Sir

Your most Obedient Servants

Richard Starke

Stringer Lawrence

To the Honble Thomas Saunders Esq^r
President & Governour of Fort St George

Sir

Inclosd is the Letter as you desire from the Nabob to the King of Pegu*. I hope you will have received Mr Starke's and my joint Address of yesterday with our Opinion that Nine hundred will do the Business. We are getting every thing in readiness. The Enemy come frequently in the Night, give a Fire and run away but as this is attended with no Mischief, I have not thought it worth taking Notice of.

I am Sir

Your most Obedient Servant

S. Lawrence

P.S. As I hurried the Nabob for the King of Pegu's Letter he can't answer yours 'till to morrow.

* The Occasion that the Nabob to write to the King of Pegu, was that upon his Request for a proper Letter representing how much he might safely rely on their Ability & Friendship of the English by whom alone & this Country had been preserved from the wicked Attempts of the Enemies.

Fort St George March 1753

The foregoing Letters being read the President acquaints the Board that finding Majr Starke & Lawrence for consequence of what wrote the Major strongly of Opinion that a bold Attempt to force the French Intrenchments might be attended with Succefs he had collected together from the several Garrisons and draughted from thice as many Men as with Captain Polliers Company amounted to about two hundred & sixty which with a Company of Seapoys he proposd sending to Fort St David on the Godolphin and Prince George if it met with the Boards Approbation and desird they would weigh the Circumstances of our Situation and deliver their Sentiments, The Board having accordingly deliberated thereon concur in Opinion that the Plan should be carrid into Execution without Delay as the Enemys present Situation not only obliges our Army to lie wholly inactive though superiour in Number of Europeans while their Detachd Parties of Banditti ravage & lay waste the whole Country but even renders the Communication between our Army and St David very precarious & which may be totally cut off if in their Situation they were to receive any considerable Reinforcement and should the Enterprise be attended with Succefs it may probably convince Morarow & the Mysore Dalaway that they are acting a part very contrary to their true Interest & perhaps determine them to return to their own Country, an Event which would give the Nabob such Superiority of Strength as might enable him to march against the Polygar Chawdar whom the French set up for Nabob of the Province and whose Interest is to be feard It is therefore Resolvd that the said Reinforcement be sent as soon as possible to Fort St David on the Godolphin and Prince George and the Subject

Fort St George March 1753

of a Letter to Messrs Marke and Lawrence is now Agreed to and the Draught Ordered to be drawn and when approved sealed after the Minutes of this Consultation.

Rod: Lawrence

Geo: Pigott

Henry Crommelin

W Wynch

John Smith

20th Pursuant to the Resolution in Consultation yesterday the Detachment of Military intended to reinforce the Army being embarked on board the Godolphin and Prince George the Dispatches to the Commanders are now Signd also General Letter to Messrs Marke and Lawrence Copy whereof follows

To Richard Marke and Stringer Lawrence Esqrs

Gentlemen

The President has communicated to us your Letters of the 6th & 13th March

We are glad to find the French Ships which are arrivd at Pondichery from Bengal & China have brought a much inferiour Reinforcement than expected.

The Plan you propose of attempting the

Fort St George, March 1753

Enemy's Intrenchment we approve and have accordingly embarked on Ships Godolphin & Prince George two hundred & sixty Military and a Company of Seapoys, Mr Hunter's Expedition was so far advanced that it was impossible to drop it, otherwise we could have sent you a few more.

We have not Lately received any Advices from Salabat Jung's Camp, there are some hopes that Sidee Lascar Cannot being advanced to the Duanship may make a favourable Alteration.

Balaseraow wishes to continue our Assistance to the Nabob and promises his Friendship. The powerful Effect of Money over these Generals would make us look upon any Alliance or Promises as very precarious, his said great Offers have been made him; on the other Hand, the Friendship that subsists between the Sou Rajah and our Settlement of Bombay gives us Room to hope. The Attachment to the King of Tanjour is another Circumstance & Morarow having made Interest for the Chout which belongs to Ballaseraow who has been advised of the large Sums the former has drawn from the Mysore King may create an Enmity between them, it is reported Balaseraow intends to go against Mysore & Morarow's Country which might possibly draw them off.

The King of Mysore we find persists in his Hopes of Trichenopoly, we think more is to be apprehended from his Money than his Troops.

You desire Gentlemen to know our Opinion should Success attend, what is next to be done. So various and uncertain are the Interests of these Princes that hardly any Plan can be fixed on but what may be liable to an sudden an Alteration as the Situation is at present the following Particulars occur to us. That we endeavour to gain Balaseraow to the Nabobs Interest the

Fort St George March 1753

King of Tanjour will we imagine find Excuses to remain neuter
till he sees the Measures this General takes; We conceive his leaving
coming into the Province will entirely destroy it's Interest but it
would be best to endeavour to perswade him to go against Mor
per's Country & Mysore and get only as many of his Troops
down sufficient to enable us to defeat the Enemy. The Nabob has
two Adversaries viz Morarow, the Mysore King and the latter
dar if the Nabob is successful Morarow may perhaps be title of
his Alliance, if not he will continue with Murtaz Ally Cawn and
the French or go to the Mysore King, it might not be unwise if
the Nabob endeavoured to gain him to his Party. The Mysore
King will probably be greatly intimidated and go to his own Coun
try, if not he does not seem to be so capable of doing much Harm
Murtaz Ally Cawn is a very powerful Phousdar, a near Relation
of Chunda Saibs, is possessed of a strong Fort in the Neighbourhood
of Arcot has been proclaimd Nabob by the French, if he once
gains Ground will be supported by all the Nawaybs who are very
numerous in the Province. Our Judgment of the different Interests
and Power of these Princes may not be so perfect as we could wish,
we therefore desire Mr Lawrence would learn from the Nabob his
Opinion, the one is endeavouring to get a Part, the other a Competitor
with the Nabob for the whole Government, the first powerful in Re
putation by which means he can form a formidable Alliance, the others
Strength greatly in the Voice of the People for not one has yet
appeard for the Nabob. Thus Gentlemen we can only give you
our Sentiments of the different Parties, whether the Victory may
be compleat, where the Enemy may again Rendezvous, whether it
may be more convenient for Carcoon, how Gen. ford to go to, under
report

Fort St George March 1753

Trichenopoly and from thence to Velour or from Velour to Trichenopo
ly is what we must leave to Mr Lawrence to act as he finds there
and several other Circumstances he thinks for the Good of the Servs
which Distance & Time will not admit us to judge of Wishing
you all imaginable Succes We are Gentlemen

Your most Obedient Servants
Thomas Saunders
Charles Boddam
Henry Powney
Alexander Wynch
John Smith

Fort St George
20th March 1753.

By the same Conveyance the President also
wrote to Major Lawrence to the same Effect as some part of the
General Letter with the following additional Paragraphs viz.

"I shall be obligd to you to speak to the Nabob
"to write to Abdul Bob Cawn to cover Conveyance Of Pikes, he be
"haves very idly and is now at Arcot inactive"

"I have received the Nabob's Letter to the
"King of Pegu and at the same time one said to come from Balaow
"row, I could not but remark that the Cover of the Nabob's Letter
"and the other were certainly cut off the same Pieces of Silk, which
"makes me still doubt the Authenticknefs of such Letters Inclos'd
"is a Translate of it by which you'll perceive it is to desire he
"would send the French Second Subadar to him, on which I
"dont know whether we should be too much on a Hurry, please
"to advise with the Nabob, I shall wait till I hear from You"

At

Fort St George March 1753

At a Consultation Present

Thomas Saunders Esq. Gov. President

Charles Boddam Henry Conway

Mexander Wynch John Smith

Monday
the 26th

The Military Correspondence read

Major Lawrence advises that Captain Lepper died the 15th Instant of the Small Pox, that several of the Men have been carried off by the same Distemper and the Season is very sickly

Captain Dalton at Trichenopaly writes that the Rajah with almost his whole Force had attack'd an Advanced Battery which annoy'd them and prevented their Horse from patroling near the Fort but notwithstanding this great Superiority they were repulsed by Subidar Mark Stratton who commanded the Post and behaved with great Bravery and Resolution, in this Action the Enemy lost forty Men kill'd on the Spot and one hundred wounded of whom twenty four died shortly after. That he reports Balaxarow's Forces are plundering in the Mysore Country, on which Account it is said the Dalaway intends to return thither with the rest That the Rajah has sent another Vakeel to Tanjour who solicits the King strongly to send neither Men nor Provisions to the Nabob but that 'tis said he meets an indifferent Reception

Captain Sanderson at Arcot advises that two of the Nabob's Head Officers having differ'd on account of the pay due to their several Commands, one of them having applyd a sum of Money intended for them both to the use of his own People only, a Quarrel ensued & lasted for two days in which several were kill'd and Wounded; That the Enemy at Vellour

joining

Fort St George March 1753

hearing of the Disturbance marched out but returnd on the News of its being accommodated.

The President writes to Lieutenant Innes at Changlepat and Lieutenant Symmonds (who commands the Party for the Protection of their Parts in the Room of Lieut Bird Cook) that he is informd several Straggling Parties of the Enemy are plundering on the Conjeveram Road, directing him to keep Horse constantly abroad for Intelligence and detach what Sepoys they can spare and endeavour to come up with them.

Letters from the President to Balaxanow & Sydoo Lascar Cawn (Salabat Jungs Diwan) as entered in the Country Correspondence dated 25th Instant are now read and approvd.

Agreed that the Colchester attend Mr Hunter on the Expedition to the Negrais as also the Arrot Snow, Porto Bello & Fortune Sloops and that Forty thousand Rupees be taken on the Colchester to be employed as Mr Hunter shall see Occasion.

Tho. Saunders.
Geo. Boulton
Henry Seaman
W. Lynch
John Smith

Fort St George April 1753

At a Consultation Present
Thomas Saunders Esq. Gov. &c. Council
Charles Boddam. Henry Bowcy.
Monday Alexander Wynch. John Smith
the 2d.

General Letter from Mess.rs Starke & Lawrence read as follows.

To the Honble Thomas Saunders Esq.r
President & Governour &c. Council of
Fort St George

Fort St David 30th March 1753.

Honble Sir & Sirs

We have been favoured with your General Letter of the 26th Instant and the Troops you have sent us are now encamp'd at Trepopilore. The Nabob with his Army moved to day to Tiruvendipuram and as all the Stores and Necessaries are on the greatest Forwardness Major Lawrence proposes to return to Tuesday or Sunday next and after settling a Magazine there which may take up a day or two He will endeavour to put our Scheme in Execution. We have not the least doubt of Success for your timely Recruit, which merits our Thanks makes us sufficiently strong for such an Enterprize

We observe that Mr Saunders has communicated our Letters of the 6th & 13th in Council though they were addressd to him only as they regarded nothing but Country affairs. This is not mentioned out of any Mistrust that the Gentlemen would keep the Affair secret for we have the greatest Confidence in them but because we thought our Honble Masters had some Reasons for ordering that Things of this Nature should

&c.

Fort St George April 1753

be transacted by a Majority of them and we were willing to shew our Obedience However we will always communicate what occurs to you when Opportunity offers as a perfect Harmony and your Approbation is what we shall be always desirous of

In a Conference with the Nabob Mr Lawrence finds that the declaring Mortar Ally Town will hurt Mr Dupleix's Interest with the Nawaights rather than forward it as they are disgusted at Young Chunda's being set aside This may be of Service among the Rest of the Things you mention but as it is impossible to form any Certain Judgment on the State of Affairs in general till after a Battle we must beg Leave to defer giving our Opinion till that Time and in Hopes of speedily wishing you Joy of a Victory We are

Honble Sir & Sirs

Your most Obedient Servants
Rich.d Starke
Stringer Lawrence

The other Letters relating to Military Transactions rec.d since last Consultation, are also read

Mess.rs Starke & Lawrence write that Mr Kinneer having acquainted Mr Lawrence it is intended to order the Coffrey's back hither they had re-embark'd them to the Number of forty seven and a Corporal on the Godelphin as they can be but of little Service there and may do very well on Mr Kinneer's Expedition

Captain Dalton writes that since the Royal Repulse in his late Attack of the Advanced Battery the Enemy have not ventur'd to approach any of our Outposts but apply with double Diligence to the Stopping all Provisions that they Lately sent Thirty Bullock Loads with Rice and as many People who will probably share the Fate of seven others not re-

the

Fort St George April 1753

the Dalloway sent back a few days ago without their Dates. That it is reported there has been an Action near Seringapatam between the Morattas & Mysoreans in which the latter lost twelve hundred Men & were obliged to take Shelter under the Cannon of their Fort since which they have sent to offer Terms of Accommodation to Balaseroon

Captain Sanderson advises that a Body of the Morattas appeard Lately at Tennevay and burnt and plundered the Country wherever they go.

Lieutenant Innis advises to the same Effect that though he has always detached Parties in pursuit of the Enemy whenever he has had Intelligence of them yet it has been impossible to come up with them being Horse, that the Main Body are near Cavendypodlam which Village they have attempted to burn and he is apprehensive the Nabobs People will desert that Fort unless timely supported.

Lieutenant Symmonds writes that having Intelligence of three hundred Morattas being at Parapa about four Coss from Coonamalee he marched in pursuit of them but to no purpose not being able to come up with them, that his Harcars say they are gone to Anamalore where there are seven hundred of the Enemy.

The most material of what the President wrote Major Lawrence is as follows

"It is reported that Monsr Bussy with
" a Hundred of the French Troops is arrived at Metchlepatanam,
" that the rest Remain with Salabad Jung"

"Balaseroon's Vakeel was with me this
"Morning, I ask'd him concerning the French Head Subidar

who

Fort St George April 1753

be transacted by a Majority of Votes and we were willing to show our Obedience However we will always communicate what occurs to you when Opportunity offers as a perfect Harmony and your Approbation is what we shall be always desirous of

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the

Fort St George April 1753

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Enemy whenever he has had Intelligence of them yet it has
been impossible to come up with them being Horse, that the
Main Body are near Caurendypodlam which Village they
have attempted to burn and he is apprehensive the Natives
etc will desert that Fort unless timely supported.

Lieutenant Symmonds writes that having
Intelligence of three hundred Morattas being at Carapa about
five Coss from Coonamalee he marchd in pursuit of them but
to no purpose not being able to come up with them, that his
Hircars say they are gone to Anaver Tiviatore where there
are seven hundred of the Enemy

The most material of what the President
wrote Major Lawrence is as follows

"It is reported that Monsr Bussy with
" a Hundred of the French Troops is arrivd at Metchlepatam,
" that the rest Remain with Salabad Jung"

"Balaseroon's Vakeel was with me this
"Morning, I ask'd him concerning the Arrack Rent Subidar

who

„who is with his Master, he says his Government is taken from him
„that he is in Disgrace and no Confidence put in him, this does not
„well agree with the Letter requesting his Brother might be sent

The Nabobs Brother

A Report from Pondicherry says that *Mauptez
„Cann is imprisond at Golcondah and that Nabob Mahomed Ally is or-
„dered to depart the Province his said here Mauptez Cann is appointed
„Nabob of Rajahmundrum

„The Nabobs Letters to me are generally hufsing, as
„you have an Opportunity by frequently conversing with him of Salabat
„Jung, Balajarow and other Affairs of Government you might perceive
„if there was any Inconsistence in his Discourse.

„I don't think there can be any great or certain
„Dependence on Balajarow, the cannot powerful Effect of Money is
„a great Difficulty to struggle with.

A Letter is also read from the Mysore Dallaway
on the old Subject of his Dispute with the Nabob insisting on the
Guarantee of the English and their Breach of Faith and enclosing
Copies (as he alledges) of two Letters wrote one by Captain Cope and
the other by Captain Delpingers both promising that the Nabobs
Agreement with the Rajah should be fulfill'd which Letters with
the Presidents Answer now read and approvd are ordered to be
Country Correspondence

The abovemention'd Letter said to be wrote by
the Mysore Dallaway by Captain De Gingens having been shown
him he positively declares he never did write him to that or the like
Effect.

The several Articles and Stores intended for
the Expedition to the Negrais viz. Colchester, Great Snow, Carte
Bello & Fortune Sloops being in readiness to Agreed that Lieut
Bishock with a Detachment of thirty four Europeans and twenty
two Coffrey be embarked on the Colchester for the said Service that

Fort St George April 1753

Mr Charles Knapton one of the Assistants to the late Mr Hudson
to also attend Mr Hunter as an Assistant on planning Bridges &c
what Works may be thought necessary and a Commission ordered
to be drawn out for him to act as a Lieutenant of Artillery during
the Expedition and also an Ensigns Commission to John Dalton
late Gunner of the Bombay Castle who likewise proceeds on the Expedition

Draughts of the following Letters are now read and

From the President to the King of Pegu } Both ordered on the
From Do to the King of Tanay } Country Correspondence

General Letter to David Hunter Esq
Letter from the President to Ditto
General Letter to Mr Robert Westgarth
General Letter to Mr Thomas Taylor

Which being approved are ordered to be entered after the
Minutes of this Consultation

Tho: Saunders
Tho: Hastings
Henry Bourchier
Wm Pigott
John Smith

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Fort St George April V/53

To David Hunter Esq.

Sir

Our Honble Masters having directed us to make a Settlement at the Negrais and at the same time acquainting us of their Appointment of you to the Government of it, Wee as soon as Circumstances would permit sent Mr Thomas Taylor with Sloops Porto Bello and Fortune on this Expedition By Letters from Him we learn he Landed at the Negrais and hoisted his Britannick Majys Colours, that in two or three Days time a Six hundred of the Pegu men came there demanding the Reason of his coming, that he began to throw up Works but the Season being unhealthy and his Men falling down very fast which rendering him incapable if attacked & making a Defence he proceeded to Pegu and had an Audience of the King who endeavoured to dissuade him from his Design, offered him a Settlement on the Main and at the same time told him he should have the preference to all other Europeans Advices since mention that the King still continues to amuse him, that the French are making their greatest Efforts to dissuade him from it and that the Kings Behaviour lately had in it an air of unusual Coolness In this Situation we think delays are dangerous Can only serve to give time to our Competitors to render the Scheme abortive

We therefore think it would be necessary that you proceed there immediately with the Ships Colchester, Porto Bello Cuddalore & Fortune Sloops and Arcot Snow; On these Vessels we have Laden the Stores requisite with a Detachment of Men according to Returns delivered which are entirely under your Direction As Captain Emerson of the Porto Bello has been there, He may be useful to you as a Pilot On your Arrival you will take possession of the Island in his Britannick Majesty's Name for the Company We suppose you will fortify as soon as possible, the more you conduct this Affair with the Appearance of Friendship, the better You may

note

Fort St George. April 1753

made the King of your Arrival, that the Reigne of Pega Proves verry
ill hazardous for Ships of large Burthen, that you deem the Port
mention to settle at the Negrais as a Place of more Safety and that
you are ready on behalf of the Company to enter into an Alliance
with him, the accompanying Letters, one from the Nabob the other
from us to the King will inform him that we have sent you for that
purpose. As a Basis for this Treaty the Island of Negrais are
to be demanded, a Factory and Fortification at Syriam, a free Liberty
of Trade in the Kings Dominions to be settled on Terms to be agreed
on by both Parties Protection for his Britannick Majesty's Subjects
that they are not liable to the Rounds but upon Complaint to the
Resident at Syriam or the Resident at the Negrais they shall receive
a Punishment suitable to their Crimes and in the same Manner
the King upon Complaint made of his Subjects shall order Justice
to be done us. That We in behalf of the Company do enter into an
Alliance with the King to assist him with our Troops against his
Enemies Foreign & Domestick by Sea or Land That the same Li-
berty of Trade be granted him in our Ports as he allows us in
his, and that this Treaty be signed by the King & his Seal with
that of his Officers affixed to it. That you may be the better able
to carry this Scheme into Execution we have directed Mr Robert
Westgarth Resident at Syriam to obey such Orders as he shall re-
ceive from you; Mr Thomas Taylor you will employ as you find
him useful to You or let him return to the Coast. To guard
against Accidents we have wrote to the Gentlemen at Bengal to
send a Sloop to you with Supplies of Stores & Provisions &
have been informed that Coja Simon an Armenian, an Officer of
the King of Pegu has hyred one an Officer of one of our Ships and
intends here, this is so great an Affront that we think you should

remonstrate

Fort St George April 1753

remonstrate it to the King of Pegu and demand a suitable Satisfaction. You will please to advise us soon as possible of your Progress and the Time you may think it returning the Colchester to us that we may provide for her. As such a Distance will not admit us to judge of many things that may happen in the Course of this Expedition we must leave it to your Discretion to act as you judge for the Interest of our Honble Masters

Mr Thomas Combes being on an ill State of Health which renders him incapable of affording you any Assistance We permitted him to return to his Station at Fort Marlborough and appointed Mr Henry Brooke to accompany You in his Room

We have ordered Captain Roger Mascarenecy & the several other Commanders to repair on board their respective Vessels and follow such Directions as you may think proper to give them

The King of Tavoy having by Captain Mackeen entered into an Alliance with the English and excluded all other Nations from the Trade of his Port. We deliver you a Letter to him as he may possibly be of Service to you. As we dont know when or what may from hence return to that Place. We inclose you Copy of his Agreement if Opportunity offers you will endeavour to cultivate that good Understanding with him if not determined by your other Affairs. We are informed he has paid Homage to the King of Pegu

Inclosed are Invoice and Bill of Lading for the several Articles we have taken on board the Colchester & the other Vessels under your Direction. Wishing you all imaginable Success We are &c. Your most obedient Servants, Thomas Saunders, Charles Boddam, Henry Conney, Alexander Wynch, John Smith

Fort St George April 1753

To David Hunter Esq^r ..... Fort St George 4^th April 1753

Sir

Having in our General Address communicated to you what occurr'd to us I shall only add a few Hints which you may make use of as you find necessary.

Our Colours being hoisted at Tonqueen the King is a Burmar, it may probably give some Disgust to the King of Pegue; If it should be so you may endeavour to remove it by re guainting him We are not done with any Design to assist him against his Majesty whom we hear he had acknowledg'd a Sovereign but at the Desire of the King of Tavay who was apprehensive the Dutch would settle there by Force

I am inform'd that the Natives especially Artificers would gladly live under our Protection at the Negrais which with Encouragement will be of infinite Service to you

The pressing of Tradesmen on this Expedition is really a very despotick Act and which nothing but absolute Necessity can in the least excuse, I must therefore request you will please to see these People are well treated and if you can supply yourself there you will return as many as you can by the Vessels that came to the Coast

If you succeed in this Affair I imagine there will not be a Necessity of a Fortification at Syrian as all Trade and Business can be carried on from the Negrais

The Customs of these People are so duly observed from ours, in case you should wait on the King which I should think would be better avoided it would be amiss to settle the Formalities before hand

Coja Nicous an Armenian by Nation

Fort St George April 1753

Nation and one of the Ministers of the King of Pegu has very unjustly rebuked an English Officer and is represented as endeavouring to prejudice us with the King; It's possible you may have an Opportunity to take a proper Satisfaction for this Affront.

Mr Brooke being appointed to attend you on this must put him to an Extraordinary Expence, I think he might be allowd fifteen or twenty Pagodas a month extraordinary however this I leave to You.

Whatever Advices you may send, please to let them be under Direction to the Private Committee

If you could procure Loadings for the Vessels returning here of Rice and Plank, it might lessen the Expence of the Expedition.

I shall impatiently wait to hear of your Success, wishing you all imaginable Happiness I am

Sir

Your most obedient Servant
Thomas Saunders

To Mr Robert Westgarth
President at Pegu

Sir

We have receivd your several Letters by the Ships Yorkshire Grey, Snow Neptune and Sloop Fortune and Porto Bello.

David Hunter Esq being appointed on an Expedition to the Negrais now proceeds there accordingly with the Honble Companys Ship Colchester Saunders other Vessels under his Direction. As it will be most regular we think it proper to put you under his Orders and you must therefore duly observe all such as you may receive from him. You must likewise transmit him your Accounts regularly and apply to him

Fort St George April 1753

for whatever you may have Occasion for. We have communi-
cated to him what Advices we have received from you re spec-
ting your Negotiations with the King of Pegu concerning the Ne-
gross, what you have since done therein you will not fail to
acquaint him with.

Fort St George We are Sir
1st April 1753

Your affectionate Friends
Thomas Saunders
Charles Boddam
Henry Penney
Alexander Wynch
John Smith.

To Mr Thomas Taylor

Sir

Your several Letters by the Ships Yorkshire
Grey, Neptune Snow and Sloops Fortune & Porto Bello are all
safely come to hand.

David Hunter Esq being appointed to
make a Settlement on the Negrais now proceeds there accord-
ingly with the Honble Companys Ships Colchester and sundry
other Vessels; as He may probably require your Assistance
we think it necessary to put you under his Orders which you
will therefore pay a due Obedience to and communicate to him
what Progress you have made in your Negotiations with the King
of Pegu in regard to that Island. We are

Fort St George
1st April 1753.

Sir

Your affectionate Friends
Thomas Saunders
Charles Boddam
Henry Penney
Alexander Wynch
John Smith

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Fort St George April 1753

N.B. Mr Henry Brooke having been thought a proper Person to supply the Place of Mr Combes, it is thought proper to appoint him in case of the Death of Mr Hunter to conduct the Expedition, till He receive further Orders and a Letter to him and an additional one to Mr Hunter as follow are now signed, viz.t

To David Hunter Esq.

Sir

In the accompanying Letter you are acquainted that we have appointed Mr Henry Brooke to accompany you in your present Undertaking and as we would willingly provide as far as we can for the Success we have directed him in case of your Decease to take upon him the Charge and Management of the Expedition and present Measures on the Plan you shall have settled untill he receive our further Orders

As the Charges attending this Expedition will be very considerable, every means that may tend to lessen them claim our Attention, we therefore think it would be advisable that such of the Vessels under your Direction as you may have occasion to return hither be loaded with Rice and Plank if procurable. We are

Sir

Fort St George
8th April 1753.

Your most Obedient Servants
Thomas Saunders
Charles Boddam
Henry Pomney
Alexander Wynch
Peter Smith

To Mr Henry Brooke

Sir

Relying on your Prudence & Diligence we have appointed you to accompany David Hunter Esq in the Negrais whose Directions you will observe in every thing relative to his present Expedition and in case of his Decease we hereby direct that you take upon you the Charge & Management of that Undertaking

Fort St George April 1753

and proceed therein on the Plan he shall have settled until
you receive our further Orders Weare

Fort St George
4th April 1753.

Sir

Your affectionate Friends
Thomas Saunders
Charles Boddam
Henry Powney
Alexander Wynch
John Smith

The Dispatches to Captain Mainwaring of the Cruizer
Grierson of the Porto Bello
Hammond of the Fortune
Bond of the Great Sloop

directing them to follow such Orders as they may receive from
David Hunter Esq[r] are now also signed

At a Consultation Present
Thomas Saunders Esq[r] Gov[r] President
Charles Boddam Henry Powney
Alexander Wynch John Smith
Monday
the 9th

General Letter from Mr Robert Westgarth

at Syrian read as follows viz[t]

To the Honble Thomas Saunders Esq[r]
President and Governour &c Council
at Fort St George

Honble Sir & Sirs

Enclosd I send you my account for last
Month by which you will perceive the Ballance in my Favour
so must desire you will grant me a Supply by the next Conveyance
agreeable to what your Honours Intentions may be and as there
is a Loss in weighing out Rice Money in small Sums I hope
you

Fort St George April 1753

you will be pleasd to make me the accustomary Allowance which is 5 prcnt for Loss of Weight and one p Cent for blowing down the Sleeves)

The King and Myper Rajah has desird me to write your Honours to assist their People in getting what Necessaries they may want and that you will supply them with what small Arms you possibly can spare and some Sulpeter and in regard to Customs they say if you will not take Customs for what belongs to the King they will do the same here by the Company which I hope some time may turn to Advantage of their giving us the same Liberty in their Port that they have in ours. They propose sending a Ship a Year but I cant assure you of the certainty of it)

The French here have labourd hard to get the Ship to Pondicherry and have been at some Expence about it but to their great Mortification are disappointed, the King said it never was customary to send Kings Ships there and he would not do it

There's a Ship of the King of Maldivia's call'd Ivon Hee sailed from London with Rice which the Nequedah is afraid he will lose his Passage for the Maldivia, and the French have advisd him to go directly to Pondicherry with his Rice, I sent for the Nequedah and told him the bad Consequences of inquiring the Kings Ship to a Place that was in Warr and possibly they would all be taken and made Slaves, he told me he would not go there and if I would give him a Letter to the Governour of Fort St David to buy his Rice he would go there which I have done and hope will deprive the French of that Supply

The Kings People have requested a Pa-

from me I have given them a Certificate Tell they arrive at your
Port; I have nothing material to add but remain with great
Respect Honble Sir & Sirs

Syrian
March 18. 1753

Your most obedient humble Servt
Robt Westgarth

Considering our present Terms upon the Negrs
no Opportunity should be lost of cultivating a good Harmony
and Friendship with the King of Pegu, as the most effectual
means of promoting it and as Mr Westgarth in the foregoing Let
ter intimates that the King is desirous we should remit the
Customs on what belongs to him on board his Ships now in the
Road in which Case he will do the same by the Company's
Agreed that no Customs be demanded on the Kings Merchan
dize and that as a further Mark of our Friendship a Present
be sent him by the Return of his Ships of a rich Gilt Palan
kean and another to his Brother Oppornah (hitherto mer
tioned by the Name of Upper Rajah) and that at the same
time a Letter be wrote expressing our Desire our Alliance may
subsist

The President lays before the Board the
Military Correspondence which is read

Major Lawrence's Letters are as follow

To The Honble Thomas Saunders Esq[r] Camp at Sivery April 1[st] 1753

Sir

As the Activity of the Army may give
frequent Occasions of writing I shall begin afresh to Number
my Letters. We left Trivendypuram early this morning
with a Large Train of Baggage which it was the Enemy were
determined

Fort St George April 1753

determind to take Advantage of as well as our being fatigued with a troublesome March for we could perceive their whole Body Horse & Foot drawn out in a Line with the Road at about eight hundred Yards from it and very near Trivedy they began their Cannonading in their usual Manner a vast deal of it to little Purpose, as we paid a very small Regard to their work they were encouragd to advance but on our meeting them Mough we had a deep hollow Way to cross they run away in Confusion and left us Masters of the Field and their Killed and Wounded, the Morattas saved the Cannon but I believe this cowardly Behaviour of their Friends must open their Eyes, if not we shall endeavour to do it in two or three days The Action lasted about an Hour I'll address you again to morrow with further particulars and am

Sir

Your most Obedient Servant
S Lawrence

To the Honble Thomas Saunders Esqr

Camp at Trivedy April 2d 1753

Sir

I wrote you last Night of our Success on the Road to this Place and I am perswaded the Panick the Enemy seemd to be in will render what remains an easy Work The Soldiers were greatly fatigued and divided amongst a large Train of Baggage or we must have made many Prisoners As it is, about Thirty Europeans dead, and four dangerously wounded were left on the Field, the rest got off under Cover of the Morattas who behavd resolutely better than their Employers and pushd at us very boldly, inclosd is a Return

Fort St George April 1753

of our Loss which was inconsiderable, The Shot flew over us there
and made sad Work amongst the Coolys; However we manage to
ry well and by Thursday at furthest, I shall move to the Sea
Side. This is very disagreeable Weather, two of our Men dropt
down dead with excessive Heat

The Surgeon you sent to St David stayd to cure
Camp undefs I would let him supercede Mr Barwell which I did
no orders to do, besides the Latter has behaved with great Diligence
and it would be a Pity to put any one over him, I suppose
the Gentleman will return to Fort St George

All the Officers present their Respects to You and
with Thanks for your Good Wishes I am

Sir

Your most Obedient Servant
I. Lawrence

Captain Dalton at Trichenopoly writes that the Dale
way having intercepted twenty four Bullock Load of Rice going into
the Fort and taken fourteen of the People that were bringing it
sent them on the next Day with their Noses entirely cut off which
Barbarity has so intimidated the Country People that very few
have since ventured to bring in Provisions. That the next Night
imagining the Enemy would again return to the Place where they
had intercepted the Rice, He (Dalton) marchd as soon as it was
dark with forty Europeans, a Field Piece & four hundred Sepoys
and posted himself in a dry Tank in the Road Way, the Enemy
accordingly soon appeard & not perceiving him came very near
when he discharg'd a general Volley at them which he imagines could
not fail of doing great Execution and they immediately rode off
In a subsequent Letter Captain Dalton writes that the Enemy
patrole

Fort St George April 1753

determind to take Advantage of as well as our being fatigued with a troublesome March for we could perceive their whole Body Horse & Foot drawn out in a Line with the Road at about eight hundred Yards from it and very near Trivedy they began their Cannonading in their usual Manner a vast deal of it to little Purpose, as we paid a very small Regard to their work they were encouragd to advance but on our meeting them Mought we had a deep hollow Way to cross they run away in Confusion and left us Masters of the Field and their Killed and Wounded, The Morattas saved the Cannon but I believe this cowardly Behaviour of their Friends must open their Eyes, if not we shall endeavour to do it in Two or Three days The Action lasted about an Hour I'll address you again to morrow with further particulars and am

Sir

Your most Obedient Servant
S Lawrence

To the Honble Thomas Saunders Esq

Camp at Trivedy April 2d 1753

Sir

I wrote you last Night of our Success in the Road to this Place and I am persuaded the Panick the Enemy seemd to be in will render what remains an easy Work The Soldiers were greatly fatigued and divided amongst a large Train of Baggage or we must have made many Prisoners As it is, about Thirty Europeans dead, and four dangerously wounded were left in the Field, the rest got off under Cover of the Morattas who behavd unfeindedly bettar than their Employers and pushd at us very boldly, inclosd is a Return

Fort St George April 1753

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not fail of doing great Execution and they immediately rode off.
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patrol

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patrole Day and Night in such a manner that no Thieves could
venture out, That the Reason of his being so closely watched was
Nabobs Brother having very unadvisedly sent out a Large Detach-
ment of Topasses, Seapoys and all his Horse to fetch in some Rice
taken with Rice from Tondamans Country of which the Enemy had
immediate Intelligence and have ever since been in the Road to in-
tercept them, That Mr Dalton has us'd all the Arguments he could
to dissuade Morarjy Cawn from this Step and even peremptorily re-
fus'd to let any of those under his Command go out, but it avail'd
nothing, he said he would send his own People and accordingly
did so but now heartily repents as it is morally impossible they
can get in again while the Enemy remain in their present Situa-
tion which so effectually cuts off all Communication with the
Country that not the least Provision of any Sort has been brought
into the Fort since they took Possession of their Post and the Nabobs
Brother has been obligd to serve Paddy out of the Magazines for
several Days and seems to be under great Apprehensions though
Mr Dalton cannot think there is any Reason to be alarm'd if
the Magazines are in the Condition that has been represented to
him (of which however he can arrive at no Certainty) as the Ene-
my can do no other Prejudice than by stopping the Provisions.
That it is reported the Dalloway has accommodated Matters with
Balaiaroo for Sixty five Lack of Pagodas and spares no Art
for enlisting Seapoys with Europe Arms by which means he has
already drawn together a Body of at least two thousand beside
four Companies of Topasses

Lieutenant Innis at Chamyapet advises that
the Nabobs Killedar of Cauvardypettam having wrote to him that
without some Speedy Assistance that Fort must inevitably fall into

into the Enemy's Hands, he determin'd to assist him and for that purpose collected together what he could of the Nabobs Native Troops whom with eight Europeans, one hundred of our Sepoys and a small Tora Bundar he detached to the Relief of Tranquebar. On their Approach the Enemy march'd out to attack them but after two or three Rounds from the Field Piece quitted the Field and retreated to a Village about three Miles off leaving some of their Wounded, on our part none were hurt.

The President acquaints the Board that Capt. Hutchinson in Conversation with him on different Subjects had accidentally mention'd his having twenty of the French Troops sent on board the Godolphin and upon further Enquiry request'd him that he had Leave to go into the Place where they are confined at Fort St David and engage as many that were willing to return to Europe as he thought proper, in consequence of which having but many Europeans of his Compliment he thought this a favourable Opportunity to replace them and had accordingly enter'd the aforementioned twenty Prisoners on his Ships Books and given them necessary Cloathing as they were almost naked. The President also acquaints the Board that although he has lately received private Advices from Mr Starke, no Mention is made of the Transaction nor have the General Letters from Fort St David or Major Lawrence's Letters one Word relating to it: and as this may possibly be an Affair of no small Consequence, he desires the Sentiments of the Board.

And the several Letters and Depositions from Mr Duplex and the French Officers, and the Council, Major Lawrence and the English Officers relating to the French Prisoners having carefully perused and the Circumstances of the Affair considered

Fort St George April 1753

considerd, the Board are unanimously of Opinion that as it was
Agreed the said Prisoners should be kept at Cuddalore and Madra
be sending them to Europe an an English Ship may give Mr
Dupleix some Reason to charge us with Breach of Faith which it
would be better to avoid especially as the Advantage gain'd by
their disbursement of twenty Prisoners only out of the whole Number
is very inconsiderable, beside that it would be contradictory to what
the President with the Concurrence of the Board wrote Mr Dupleix
in answer to his Letter of the 31st May 1752 wherein (after opening
to a Deposition enclos'd of three French Officers relative to Mr Law
rences Declaration about sending the Prisoners to Europe) he says
"For Mr Lawrence to embark our Troops on your Ships will no doubt
"appear extraordinary to You, but it proves fully that they are
"not Prisoners to Mahomed Ally Cawn. I have been long looking
"for this Proof, it is at last found &c" The President in his Letter
dated 2d June replies thus. "When I receive an answer from
"Mr Lawrence in regard to the Officers Depositions I shall address
"you, the report of sending the Prisoners to Europe in our Ships was
"to be without Grounds, upon very slight Reflection you would
"know it is impossible" And again in his Letter of the 22 August
"I have already wrote you that Mr Lawrence had no Power or Author
"ity to say he would embark the Prisoners on our Ships, I told you
three Chimerical They were Nabob Mahomed Ally Cawns Prisoners"
So that we cannot without acknowledging ourselves guilty of an
illegal Act send them to Europe after this Express Declaration
that we have no Power to do so, as indeed we have not, for as it
was by Major Lawrences Mediation that the Agreement was
made for their being kept at Cuddalore and Madras we ought pro
perly to be considerd only as Trustees for both parties, on the one
part not to deliver them up without the Nabobs Consent and on
the

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the Other that they shall not be ill us'd by the Moors or Europeans as we would if possible avoid giving Major Lawrence just cause of Service are so necessary at this Time & who we imagine are going to their Affair / any fresh Dispute and we have more than one experience that our differing from him in Sentiments has had that unhappy Effect, the President is desired to write to the Admiral in a private Manner on such Points as that by the answer we may learn what were the Motives for the Measures he is in and why we not were not first consulted, in the mean time it is Agreed the said Prisoners continue on board the Godolphin for our further Consideration.

Thos Saunders
Gilbt Goodlad
Henry Lowney
W Fytche
John Smith

At a Consultation. Present
Thomas. Saunders. Esq. Gov. President
Charles Boddam. Henry Lowney
Monday Alexander Wynch. John Smith
the 16th
The President Lays before the Board the Military Correspondence

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Correspondence

Mayor Lawrence's Advices are as follow

To the Honble Thomas Saunders Esq^r

Camp near Conaramungelum 8^th April 1753.

Sir

On Thursday the 5^th Instant we left Trivi-
by carrying with us Six Hours Provendy Pounders and reach'd
a Tope not far from thence where we lay that Night to reconnoitre the
Ground and repose our Soldiers for the Morattas kept us Company
as usual which render'd this March Now & troublesome though we
killd several of their Men and Horses. The Enemy fird many
Shott from their Camp but did no Damage. A Deserter nam'd
Tabaret came over to us who calls himself an Engineer

Early on Friday Morning we took Possessi-
on of this Village with Little Loss and found a Convenient Place
for a Battery within seven hundred Yards of the Enemy's Works
at Night we carried over Guns into it & yesterday Noon about
a hundred & twenty Shot amongst them and continue doing the
same to day. This we can observe makes them weary but the
Strength of their Situation will require another Method to bring
them to an Action, be assur'd I'll do my best and flatter my-
self with Success though not so vainly as to soon as Expected
for who could imagine that their Camp besides a thick Para-
pet has a Ditch nine feet deep & seven wide quite around it
with a Glacis & Ravelins to cover every - no entering Angle. It
must have cost an infinite Sum of Money. They have a
great many Pieces of Cannon & two Mortars to defend it &
throw Shell continually into our Camp but dont do much Mi-
schief

I was favour'd yesterday with your Letter

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of the 28th March N° 11 but as our Packet has miscarried and the Roads are blockd up on all Sides, I think it unsafe to be particularly either on Country Affairs or other Matters till a more convenient Opportunity. I have spoke to the Nabob about Arcot, Tuckeriapaly &c., he promises to rectify them and you shall hear constantly from me on our Occurrences and fully when I can do it without Reserve, the Nabob says there is nothing in the Pondicherry Report but conforms that of ours, I hope will explain this

I am Sir

Your most Obedient Servant
S. Lawrence

To the Honble Thomas Saunders Esq
President & Governour of Fort St George

Sir

I wrote you yesterday from the Camp near Comorampurgulum

Finding it extremely difficult to get Provisions as the Nabob had deceived me in that particular and it being impossible to succeed against the Enemy on any reasonable Terms or indeed without reducing the whole. I thought proper to alter my measures & intend here this morning where I intend to leave all our useless Stores & by what a Diversion will do, for since we can't drive them out of a Place as strong as Waldour by any warrantable Scheme our next Endeavour must be to render it useless to them by penetrating into their Country

The Nabobs People are by no means to be depended on, they have shamefully given up Bongaroy near Chellumbrum from whence we drew our Provisions and unless it is retaken we can have no Bazar or Magazine here for which Reason I shall dispatch Captain Kilpatrick to morrow morning

Fort St George April 1753

morning with a proper Party to reduce it. These cursed Horse are formidable in nothing but cutting off our Supplies however we will make our Army as light as we can and give them no Rest

I am quite at a Loss what to think of Bolaram now. The Nabob says there is nothing to be hop'd or fear'd from him this long while as there is no Sign of his Troops being near us or entering the Province whatever may be talk'd of that he writes very affectionately to him, that the French, King of Mysore, and Morarow are the only Enemies which ought to engage his Attention at present and that if we can't defeat those People we must keep what we have got till more favourable Circumstances occur

These are his Politicks at present which he varies with the Times however we may conclude he has no Friend but the English and I wish he may have no more Enemies than those he mentions; the neutral King of Tanjour saves his Country by his Method of acting which he thinks a sufficient Plea and will never join us on the present Situation, the whole Affair seems to rest on Morarao's leaving the Province but how to force or engage him to it is beyond my Comprehension, some talk that he is disgusted with his Friends this seems to be only Talk, his Brother Bodgiroom was killed on the 1st Instant, that may have disheartned those who follow'd him but it as yet attended with no other Consequence

'Tis a Mystery to me how Duplex supports this expensive War, the Morattas must have Money and plunder he'l contrive to satisfy them if he is to be trusted you see he perseveres to the last. The Nabob complains that he is horribly distract-

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for money and it looks very like it, of Abdul Beb Cawn has as much Reason what is to be done? On the whole we must judge for ourselves. We act my part to the best of my Judgment both in distressing the Enemy and procuring Advantages the General Management rests with you who have talked to conducted it

Mr Starke writes me Word that you are displeas'd at our sending some French Prisoners on board Godolphin I am extremely concern'd as well as unhappy to find I never can do or propose any thing that meets with your Approbation; in the present Case these Prisoners go to Europe at their own Request, it was an Article of their Capitulation that they should be sent there, and the Nabob in a Letter to me consents to it; Captain Hutchinson carries them without any Expence to our Honble Masters and I thought it a fine Opportunity of ridding ourselves of so troublesome a Burthen on so reasonable a way, I could only add that this Step would not permit for knowing your Sentiments on the Matter, our Intentions were good. We acted for the best and hope no bad Consequence will attend this Step as we could not foresee any. Inclosed is a Translation of the Nabobs Letter to me on this Subject. I am

Sir

Your most Obedient Servant
S. Lawrence

To the Honble Thomas Saunders Esq

Trivedy Camp 16th April 1753

Sir

Nizoudy Cawn has wrote the Nabob from Trichinopoly that the Mysoreans have surrounded his Fort and they can get in no Provisions, that their Magazines are all exhausted & Water falls short and they are in a distressful Condition, that

Before

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Balazaroo has made his Affair up with the Daloway and is gone back again so that he begs for an instant Reinforcement. Dalton's Letters will I hope clear this Affair which may not be quite so bad as represented, however it merits our Attention and I beg you'll favour me with your Opinion and Orders about it.

Captain Kilpatrick set out this Morning for Bongany with a Strong Detachment which I hope will clear the Country from whence we draw our Provisions, Mootaz Ally Govr Party is defeated and the Enemy are collecting their Force, such our next Motion may bring them out, they shall have as little Rest as possible but their Camp is not to be forced with five Times our Numbers, if Morarie is disgusted as the Report prevails we may yet do something, no Pains shall be wanting on our part.

I cant help observing that this is the most sickly Season I have known, no less than eighty Men are in the Hospital.

I am Sir

Your most Obedt Servt
S. Lawrence

Captain Dalton on a Letter of the 3d Instt confirms his late Advices of the Mysoreans Vigilance in patroling & stopping all Manner of Provisions & that his barbarous Custom of cutting off the Noses of all whom he intercepts has struck such Terror into the Coolays that none of them will venture to bring any in nor is there any Likelihood of getting the Detachment back which Hirondy Cawn so imprudently sent into Tondeman's Country That Rice has again been sold in the Bazar the Nabob's Broker having obligd one of the great Merchants who had a large Quantity by him to dispose of it but at the same time he has hinted that there is not so large a Quantity of Provisions in the Fort as he formerly said and as the Dalton cannot get

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at any true Account of what there really is in the Magazines or how many are to be subsisted out of it and the Want of them is the only thing that can destroy them, he thinks it most proper to turn out all but Military Men till Affairs clear up particularly as the poorer Sort of People already begin to complain for Want of Rice and promises in case the Garrison should at any time be drove to Distress he will give us timely Notice that we may take the necessary Measures In a Letter dated the 5th Captain Dalton writes that the Enemy are very busy in raising a Wall about three Miles in Circumference on a Plain between the Fort and Tondemans Country where they intend to move when it is ready for their Reception with their whole Force except a Garrison for the Pagodas which will effectually cut off all Supplies, he adds that in every other Respect he thinks Trichenopoly entirely secure

Captain Sanderson at Arcot advises that he has received Intelligence of Morari Rau's Coming at Arcot with one hundred Europeans & Sepoys, thirty Coffreys, one hundred Sepoys and nine hundred Horse with four Field Pieces and two Howbitz but cannot learn their Intentions

The President's Letters to Major Lawrence and Captain Dalton are also produced & read and are as follows

To Stringer Lawrence Esq ..... Fort St George 16th April 1753

Sir

I shall to morrow reply fully to your several, this you will receive by Peppers

Captain Dalton writes me that Hirady Jaun had contrary to his Opinion sent Clements and Mr Pitch ment to Tondeman's Country, that the Mysore People had plac'd their People in such a Manner that they could not return

That

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that Provisions were stopp'd and that he knew not what were in the Magazines, I think Mirandy Saun should not take such Steps, that Captain Dalton should be informed of the Scarcity of Provisions in the Place and that no Supplies should be sent out, please to speak to the Nabob as I shall write him to give Orders accordingly. I have desired Captain Dalton upon Emergencies immediately to write to You and you will act as you judge proper to relieve him. He is very earnest here that the Dalaway is endeavouring to bribe, I shall if possible inform myself of the Particulars. We cannot be too circumspect

By the Course of your late Expedition I observe that the Enemy though their Entrenchment cannot be forc'd have been by Kill'd, wounded & Desertion considerable Sufferers & that the Nabobs Army need be under no Apprehensions from them in the Field, the Morattas must have met with a Loss to be Sure, whether this will make them tired of their Alliance remains more against the Nabob you will be best able to judge and whether by getting between their Entrenchment and Pondichery and cutting off their Convoys or by other Measures endeavouring to bring them to an Engagement which I must leave entirely to you.

Captain Saunderson at Arcot and Lieutenant Innis at Changleput are by Sickness unfit for Duty, we have none here to relieve them, I shall be oblig'd to you to send Captain and Lieutenant if you think a Lieutenant sufficient for the Command at Devecotah, Captain Pigou may either take the Field or come here.

I am Sir

Your most Obedient Servant

Thomas Saunders

Fort St George April 1753

To Captain John Dalton

Fort St George 18th April 1753

Sir

I have received your several Letters to me

It was certainly very imprudent to permit the Troops you mention to go out, I have now wrote the Nabob to give Orders to Kirvudey Cavan to do nothing in Military affairs without your Approbation, many months ago I wrote you repeated Letters concerning Provisions, you must send upon knowing the Quantity, I think all useless People should be turn'd out, I have mentioned this to the Nabob also

Could not the Men you mention take a Circuit and come on another way

I have Lately heard that the Mysore Vakeel is at Work and has offer'd large Bribes, I am in hopes of discovering soon to whom when I shall communicate it to you, You are entrusted with the Command of this Fort and I depend upon your defending it. As Affairs are in a troublesome Situation upon all Emergencies write the Major who is nearer at hand and can assist you. I have wrote to him to do it

Though you can't get Provisions from Tondemans Country, I suppose you may on the Tanjore Side. I must desire you will be very circumspect I am

Sir

Your most Obedient Servant

Thomas Saunders

The present Situation of Affairs at Trichinopoly being taken into Consideration it is the unanimous Opinion of the Board that as Captain Dalton does not represent the Fort to be in so distress'd a Condition as Major Lawrence advises Kirvudeer Cavan has wrote the Nabob and also promises

to

Fort. St George April 1753

in case he should be drove any Straights to send timely Notice, It is proper to wait for further Advices from him, and is not improbable Kerondy's Cannot Fears may have painted his Situation worse than it is.

Thos Saunders.
Geo Pocklington
Hen Lowry
W Speke
John Smith

At a Consultation Present

Thomas Saunders Esq Gov. President
Charles Boddam Henry Powney
Alexander Wynch John Smith

Wednesday the 18th

The President Lays before the Board the following Letter from Major Lawrence viz.

To the Honble Thomas Saunders Esq

Trichy Camp 13th April 1753

Sir

Captain Kilpatrick has just wrote me word that he has taken Possession of Dongery which was evacuated by the Enemy in the Night who got off undiscovered by the Negligence of the Pahdes Horse, when he returns we shall set about the other Forts

Fort St George April 1753

I hope you received my last about Instances, it certainly merits our Attention and Exact your Directions concerning it I am Sir

Your most Obedient Servant
S. Lawrence

Although no fresh Advices have been received from Captain Dalton since last Consultation yet as Major Lawrence seems to look upon the Circumstances of Affairs at Tschenapoly to be very serious and desires Directions, We Agreed to write to him on that Subject and a General Letter is accordingly now draughted and approved Copy whereof follows

To Stringer Lawrence Esq

Sir

Captain Dalton having advised the Pre-
dent that Kerondy Cawn had contrary to his Opinion sent a
large Party of the Garrison to Tondemans Country, that the Bo
ney had cut off their Communication and intercepted all Provi
ons though Captain Dalton does not seem to lay any particular
Stress upon this yet as we think it an Affair that may be of
very ill Consequence and as our Distance renders us incapable
of affording him a timely Assistance upon Emergency we desire
you will, as Your Proximity will make you sooner acquainted
with the Situation of his Affairs relieve him on such Manner as
you shall judge proper

We are Sir Your most Obedient Servants
Thomas Saunders
Charles Boddam
Henry Bonney
Alexander Wynch
John Smith &c

Fort St George
18th April 1753

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The Godolphin being almost in readiness to sail and the Dispatches intended to be delivered the Captain to morrow, the Consideration of the Question whether it is advisable or not to suffer the French Prisoners on board that Ship to proceed to Europe is now renewed and that part of Major Lawrence's *Letter of the 10th Instant, relative thereto being again read, we are of Opinion that the Prisoners requesting to go to Europe does not in the least alter the Nature of the Case, for if we are under any Restriction in this Respect, no Plea can be drawn from them to justify a Deviation, besides several of them have since made and sworke their Consent — The Major adds that it was an Article of their Capitulation. By all the Letters and Depositions it plainly appears that Fact is much contested: Mess^rs Clive and Ripington indeed depose that the Conditions of Surrendry were "that the men "should be marched Prisoners to Cuddalore there to remain at "Mons^r Law's Request till they could be sent to Europe on "English or French Ships". But Mr Law & several other French Officers in their respective Letters of the 30th August declare that no mention was ever made of sending them to Europe, and Mr Law's Letter to Major Lawrence [illegible] at his, the Major's, Request, dated the 19th June only mentions that the Prisoners should be sent to Cuddalore next Monday. Upon the whole we are of Opinion that as the Advantages of sending so few is very trifling and the Odium that may be cast on us equally great as if the whole Number was sent it had better be avoided. Resolved therefore that

*Ent^d in Consult^n the 16 Instant

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that Secretary give Captain Hutchinson an order to Relieve
them and that a Detachment be sent off to guard them ashore

Tho: Saunders.
Geo: Pocklane
Henry Lawley
J Wynch
John Mackett

25 The President having this day received the following Letter from
Major Lawrence wrote to him in answer as ordered immediately
after it.

The Honble Thomas Saunders Esq[r]

Sir

Sowdy Camp 15th April 1753

Mr Starke has enclosed to me the following
Paragraph out of one of your Letters to him dated the 11th Instant
on regard to the French Prisoners I have long ago wrote you
Duplicate that the sending them to Europe was impossible, that
was with the Concurrence of the Gentlemen in Council as I have
not been consulted on this Occasion I am no ways answerable
for any Consequences that may attend it. I know you are pleased
to explain yourself thus far and must you Have of what we
do

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do with a Design to promote the Interest of our Hon^ble Masters
give me Leave Sir to act on the same Principle and acquaint
You that as I am ignorant so likewise I am not answerable for
any Steps that have been taken by You either with or without
the Concurrence of the Gentlemen in Council; Would it not have
been acting a more Friendly Part to inform us of our Errors and
not to amend them than thus to lay Blame at our Doors if
we are worthy of it, however would it have been for you to
land the Prisoners at Fort St George if it was improper for them to
go to Europe? have we ever been made acquainted with what
you wrote Mr Dupleix, your Transactions with the Mysore
Vakeel or your General Plan and Designs? I leave it to you to
judge whether we have not at least an equal Right with the
Gentlemen in Council to know all these Things and none but
you will be answerable for taking any Steps without our Knowledge
and on my Opinion Concurrence, however as it will be a Step
for me to do any Thing in future without positive Orders I
expect them on every Particular from you and the Council to
whom I once more beg Leave to mention the Danger of Such
Inquiry as an Affair of the utmost Consequence

I acquainted you in my last that Captain
Kilpatrick had taken Bonagary since which nothing of Conse-
quence has happen'd except that I just hear that one Hundred
Mysoreans have join'd the Enemy

I am Sir

Your most Obedient Servant

P Lawrence

To

Fort St George April 1753

To Stringer Lawrence Esq^r

Sir

Fort St George 20^th April 1753

I have receivd your several Letters from
Bay and Bata and
there being two Surgeons on board that part
knowing there was only one Mate to attend the Guns
with a great deal of Difficulty prevaild on Mr Rea to stay
knowing Sure he should receive Surgeons Pay and Batta and
act as such on the Field. I shall be obligd to you if you will
make him easy in this Respect, supposing they took Rank
with Mate

The Affair of 45: 43: 63 Exchanges &c
occasions, it must be inserted on that 49: 50: 52 53 the Nabob
gave such Orders as may prevent the like in future. I wrote you
under Date the 11th and sent the which I hope are arrivd
I must desire you will act herein as Occasions require

There was no mention to me from Mr Scott
of French Prisoners though he wrote me by that Conveyance
He knows as he was in Consultation when the Letter to
was read, I heard of them actually in Contemplation, some
of them meeting & declared they would not go, you say it
would have been easy to have landed them here and when
you consider the Advantages arising from so severe trifling and
that it would give an Opportunity to always made it
take hold of every thing to advance on a Point greatly contested
I am perswaded you will think that it is better to avoid it, We
have therefore Landed them

All Transactions of the Country Govern
ment are upon Record if you chuse to have the Copy of every
Transaction sent please to advise me and it shall be done

Sir &c

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thought I think it would be better not to trust every thing to the Miscarriage of Letters

The Albion of 38 43 48 34 (Shakespeare) sailed just as it was according to Consultation of the 3d & 4th August when you was present. I have not seen the Vakeel for a considerable Time

Some days ago were sent me the Letters to be wrote by Captains Cope and Gingens. They are both the same Captain Gingens gives me an Answer in general Terms but he knows nothing directly or indirectly of 43 48 48 (Shakespeare) Lastly desire he would say whether he ordered such a Letter to be wrote or not

There is nothing certain of Balaraow, some say he is returned

Mr Starke writes me he always sends you Copy of Dalton's Letters

The Nabob should seriously consider his Affairs, Horse and Money are wanting, I don't care to be too plain now but shall write very fully by the Dragon

I am glad to hear Company are taken and hope I shall soon be advised of your Success. The great Distance where the Entrenchment was attacked makes me think the Enemy are not so strong as reported. I wish the Nabob could only once bring them to an Engagement

I am

Your most Obedient Servant

Tho. Saunders

P.S.

This Minute 49 56 52 53 (the Nabob) informs me that 35 48 43 33 (Shakespeare) has greatly disgusted the whole Army he thought of and his Cause would fall unless 40 50 62 53 (the Nabob) could prevail such Measures as he judges proper

Fort St George April 1753

At a Consultation. Present

Thomas Saunders Esq Gov. President

Charles Boddam. Henry Lowney

Monday the 23d Alexander Wynch John Smith

The Military Correspondence read

Two Letters from Major Lawrence, the last

just received by Gallemaran are as follow.

To the Honble Thomas Saunders Esq Fort St George

Trinidy Camp 19 April 1753.

I have received your Letter N°12 to me and a Copy of yours N°9 to Captain Dalton.

You will find in my last the Resolution I am forc'd to take in regard to publick Transactions which I again repeat that I will never make any Alterations or undertake any new Expedition without positive Orders from you, and the Council and not discretionary that the Scheme may be your's, mine the Execution, when I fail of my Duty after this you may then censure me with Reason.

Captain Dalton is to be reinforc'd and his Situation seems to cry aloud for it; tis high time to determine something for the Rising of the Rivers / and that Season is approaching / will put it out of our Power to assist him. The King of Tanjore has offer'd himself as a Mediator between the Dalaway & Nabob of which the Latter has wrote you fully. Is not this a Contrivance to gain Time and favour his Views on the Affair of Bribing or do they want to amuse us till the Waters come down? You know my Sentiments are for Peace but the safest

Way

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Fort St George April 1753

Way of concluding it is Sword in hand

Should you chuse that a Force able to make
it's way thro' the Mysore Army (which is absolutely requisite if any
is order'd) should march to Trichenopoly, please to let me whether
I must go there myself or detach a Party of two hundred Europe-
ans, Six hundred Sepoys or more and four Pieces of Cannon,
your Determination in either of these Cases or any other shall be
instantly put in Execution and let me beg that you won't delay a
Minute in answering this Letter, the Sepoys have not yet
miscarried and Dispatch is of the utmost Consequence. Captain
Kilpatrick is return'd from Bongaroy, He endeavours to amuse
the Enemy and if possible distress them for four or five days
more in which time I hope to be honoured with your Orders.
The Scheme of cutting off the Enemy's Provisions by laying between
them and Pondicherry is impracticable while they have Horse
and We have none, I only expected to plague them a little
as they had done us but now Trichenopoly demands all our At-
tention

I wrote Markelyne a great while ago that
I never would nominate an Officer to relieve Captain Sanderson
or interfere in any thing at a Distance as you formerly com-
manded me. I had no Business with these Troops Please to
let me know who you appointed to relieve him and Mr Innes
they shall be sent immediately if in Camp, if not I have no-
thing to do with them.

As I never sent Captain Pigou to Dove-
Cotah what Necessity is there that I should order him out,
or how do I know that he will obey my Orders.

There are two Companies vacant and
some Subalterns, our Distress for Officers makes it necessary to

Fort St George April 1753

fill them up immediately, in pointing out the Inconvenience
no body. You know best who are fittest

Bodgeerow was kill'd not Morare as I mistook
in a former Letter. By Accounts from the Enemy's Camp he &
rattas are greatly incens'd against their Allies but more against
the Nabob and us for killing so considerable a Num of them,
they have put on Yellow Cloathing and swear they'll give no
Quarter but this Threat puts me in mind of the Regiment de la
Mort in France who never have been in Action, the Morattas
keep an awful Distance and are not to be feared

I am Sir

Your most Obedient Servant

S. Lawrence

To the Honble Thomas Saunders Esq

Fort St David 22d April 1753

Sir,

On the 20th in the Evening I received a
Letter from Captain Dalton, Copy of which is endorsed, wherein he
requests me that Instantly as no very great Danger accasions
by the Insolency of Kerindy Cawn and their want of Provisions
this determind me to relieve him at all Events as it is an Affair
of the utmost Consequence to the Interests of our Honble Masters
and accordingly that Night I wrote him word that if possible I
would be with him in fourteen days directed him to acquaint
all the People with the news and endeavour to keep their Spirits
up though their Provisions should fall short which I greatly
fear will be the Case

Yesterday after providing for the Security
of Trinady by leaving Captain Chase with one hundred & fifty

Europeans

Fort St George April 1753

Europeans and four hundred Sepoys besides the Nabobs People in it, I moved with a light Army to Trivendapuram and came here myself to provide the Necessaries requisite for our March, where I was glad to find a Letter from You and the Council which ordered this Step and agrees with my Opinion in it, we shall march Anthapachilly to night and move from thence to morrow taking the Rout of the Tanjour Country as well for the Ease of procuring Provisions and Necessaries as the Prospect of getting some of their Horse to join us, I have wrote to the King of Tanjour on this Subject

In my last I mentioned the sending two hundred Europeans but now the Affair is too serious and it would be the highest Imprudence to risque a Miscarriage by which the Fort is inevitably lost and the whole Coast perhaps ruined, I should not have taken this Step however without positive Orders from you, if urgent Necessity had not compell'd me to it

The Season has been very sickly which lessens our Numbers, a hundred & twenty Men at one time have been in the Hospital and several of Our Officers are likewise ill

I am Sir

Your most humble and most Obedient Servant

T Lawrence

Copy of Captain Dalton's Letter to Major Lawrence referr'd to in the foregoing Letter

Dear Major

Trichenopaly April 13. 1753

I wrote you lately several Letters that by the present Situation of the Enemy we are so blockaded that no the least Provisions of any Sort can possibly come into the Fort, they keep Scouts at such a vast Distance that there is

no Possibility of interrupting them, they never once dare
attack'd our Advanced Post approach without Cannon but
Hirondy Cawn has been often passing and repassing
to you to come this way which I imputed to his Fears as he is
a timorous Man, but last Night he sent for Mr Harrison and
and protested to us before God that there was now but two Days
Provision for the Garrison within the Walls and that if you don't
speedily march this way all will be ruined. I have always been
very cautious of applying to you on that Head least such a
Movement might prejudice your Affairs but as Things now
stand and Hirondy Cawn having likewise applyd to some of us
ing which is I suppose to throw the Blame of what may hap
pen off himself it is to be sure my Duty to acquaint you of
it, particularly as it is an Affair of the utmost Consequence

It is but a month ago that I demanded of him
in the Governours Name what Quantity of Provisions were in
the Garrison and he assurd me of four months at least; what
Interest he could have in deceiving me I cant conceive

There is no Time now to spare that your
sending a Detachment would not answer; the Enemy will cer
tainly endeavour and if not stop them, at least considerably re
tard them on the Road I am persuaded that of on the Receipt
of this you only make a Couple of Marches this way the Ra
jah will instantly decamp for he trembles at your Name and
should he stay till you arrive at Samayveram we can soon
dispatch him between two Fires Mr Ivon very certain that
before you arrive at Wellonda he won't be far from Carroor

The Shortness of our Provisions which has hitherto
till now always kept a Secret to me, is a Thunder Clap at this

Junction,

Fort St George April 1753

Sundurd, however it is exactly the State of Affairs as he has represented to us under his Seal and I could not avoid representing it to You as it is of the utmost Consequence and I am perswaded that you'll take the necessary Steps to assist us. With regard to my Europeans we could make forty Sheps but the Black Fellows will all decamp the first day they want their Rice.

I am,

Your most Obedient & very humble Servant

John Dalton

Since I wrote the above the Nabob has been at me again, to solicit you to arrive here before fifteen days from the Date of this. I have already said all he told me on the Subject & can only assure you that whatever Distress we undergoe to you'll find that while I have Life I will not render myself unworthy of my Charge

Captain Dalton in a Letter to the President dated the 11th Instant after repeating his former Account of the Enemy's Situation & adds a Postscript of the 12th Since

*meaning the Nabobs Brother Hirudy Cawn

I wrote the above to my utter Amazement the *Nabob sent for me & Mr Harrison and informd us that he had now Provisions in the Garrison but for fifteen or twenty days at most and that if we did not instantly apply to the Mayor to come this way we might expect to be left after that Time with only our Europeans in the Fort. I reproached him with his Villany in desiring me to inform you that he had for four months at last. He said it was not customary to discover what Provisions were in a Fort and that he would not now if there was not an absolute Necessity for it. I have wrote fully to the Mayor who I dare say will instantly move this way the noise of which will I am pretty sure fright the Colonay away. I am in great hopes

Fort St George April 1783

„shall arrive soon till when I shall use my utmost Endeavours
„to keep up the Spirits of the Black People

Although the Army's moving from Trichy to the Travancore Coast about St David entirely open and defenceless whence many Mischiefs may ensue, yet considering the present distressed Situation of Tuckanapaly as represented by Major Dalton which unless immediately relieved must inevitably fall into the Mysoreans Hands, an Event in its Consequences more to be dreaded than the Efforts of the Enemy about St David we entirely approve of the Measures Major Lawrence has taken by marching to its Relief

Major Lawrence in his Letter of the 15 Inst complains (speaking of himself and Mr Starke) that they have never been acquainted with our General Plan and Designs in Consequence of which the President acquaints the Board that although this Plan is so obvious and has frequently been mentioned in the Letters to those Gentlemen he thinks it necessary to repeat in general our present Views and to desire Mr Starke when the Major will consult with the Nabob & then give us their Opinion on the present Circumstances of Affairs and what Measures they think should be pursued and a Draught of a Letter from the President on that Subject is now read and approved and is as follows

To Richard Starke and
Stringer Lawrence Esqrs

Gentlemen

The Nabobs Army having been a considerable Time in the Field and not able to effect any thing of Consequence his Horse being greatly inferiour to those of Morari's the Enemy having entrenched themselves and now become so strong that

the

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Fort St George April V/53

The Nabob finds it impossible to force them, at least such an Undertaking would be attended with great Hazard, in this Juncture on it seems necessary to take a General Review of his Affairs and Consult what Measures are proper to procure on

The General Plan I conceive to be this that by the Divisions fomented in the Provinces and the Ambitious Views of our Neighbours, the Welfare of our Honble Masters Settlements seem to be in Danger to avert which we support Mahomed Ally Cawn as the French did Chunda Saib. From time to time the different Interests that prevail Alliances contracted, Good or Ill Success, our own or the Enemys Strength or Weakness are all so many Springs that as they incline will give a new Face to Affairs and afford Matter for our most serious Consideration the Result of which will always be the Plan for Action. These Gentlemen are my Sentiments, if they should any way vary from yours, please to communicate to me, that with unanimous Efforts we may endeavour to dispell those Clouds that are gathering round us.

The Advices and Letters we receive from several Powers I think many of them may be often doubted whether genuine, all that can be said is there is no sure Reliance of their being otherwise and the Interests of these Princes are so fluctuating ever to be biassed by Corruption that we can only reap any present Advantage that may offer but never ingage them with any Certainty or put such a Dependence as to proceed on them as a fixt Plan.

We thought that Sidee Sawar Cawn by appointed Duan to Salabat Jung will cause great Alter Mons. Bussy is arrivd at Mutchlepatam with a hundred . We said the rest will be dismissd by Salabat Jung, &c

Fort St George April 1753

will not we are certain these Troops can be recalld whenever the Dupleix pleases. Balazarow the last is returning to his Country some Report the Mysore King has accommodated Matters with him

The King of Tanjore is cautious how he engages himself in these Troubles, at least waits to see which is the strongest Party.

The Mysore King insists on Trichinopoly which by Captain Dalton and the Nabobs Representations must be relinquished after so many repeated Letters to the Nabob, Kinnoudy Canon & Captain Dalton to throw in Provisions when they might have done it, the Neglect is inexcusable and to let so large a Part of the Garrison be surprized when so particular Orders were given for Circumspection in Conduct highly blameable. Arcot & Changlepet are much on the same Situation as to Provisions nor do the Nabobs Amildars pay a single Cash.

I think it would be necessary that Mr Lawrence should talk with the Nabob on these Affairs, represent to him the Situation of the several Forts and know whether he will supply them or not, lay before him the large Expences and desire to know in what Manner he purposes to support them, convince him of the Necessity of three or four thousand Good Horse and see if he knows the means of raising them, these will enable you to form a judgment of the present Situation, should the Nabob neither be able to supply his Forts, raise Money for Expences or get a Reinforcement of Horse please to give me your Opinion whether you think we are able to support the Charge and have Force sufficient and what Methods you think will be most prudent to pursue. We may reasonably suppose the French will have a strong Reinforcement & we may see also we shall be supplyd accordingly

One thing I cannot omit taking Notice of, that when the Affairs had a gloomy Appearance at Trichinopoly the

ended

Fort St George April 1753

entered into a Correspondence with the French & would I believe if things had not taken a more favourable Turn have accepted their Proposals. It is reported that Monacee would have persuaded him to this Lately, should he take such a Step it would greatly prejudice us for our Welfare depends Intirely too much on his Government & this he is too sensible of. I agree that Secrecy is extremely necessary in these Transactions and am therefore very cautious; as upon requesting the Supply of Men they were called in from the several Garrisons & the Affair not laid before the Board Till ready to be put in Execution; please to prevent as much as possible any thing of a publick Nature being wrote up here on private Letters. Our Honble Masters Ships Godolphin sail'd the 21st Instant. I am Gentlemen Your most Obed.t Serv.t Tho.s Saunders.

Fort St George
23.d April 1753

Lieutenant Innis at Changleput writes that the Country thereabouts has been very quiet since the Enemy were drove from Cauvendypollam but that the Nabobs Officers are continually importuning them for Ammunition which they say they are wholly unprovided with and cannot procure and he is well afsur'd they have not sufficient to defend themselves if attack'd.

Thos Saunders
Charlton Addams
Henry Lanny
Wm Hall
Jno Hall

Fort St George April 1753

25th The President receives a Letter from Captain Sanderson at Arcot advising that Abdul Vahab Cawn having sollicited him for a Party of Men & some Guns to demolish a small Fort belonging to the Enemy, he in Compliance detached thirty Europeans with two Field pieces and two Companies of Sepoys under the Command of Lieutenant Smith who on Coming with the Nabob's Forces commanded by his Brother Nazeer Boula Cawn accordingly demolish'd the Fort and Country of the Enemy's Approach advanced to meet them although they were greatly superiour in Number both in Horse and Foot and had three Field Pieces. An Engagement ensues in which the Nabob's Forces and one of the Company's of Sepoys behaved extremely ill hiding themselves behind Trees instead of supporting the Europeans who after three times repulsing the Enemy were at length overpowered by Numbers and [illegible] except Mr Smith & three or four Europeans taken Prisoners almost all killd, which has greatly reduced his Garrison.

The President on Receipt of the abovementioned Letter having immediately communicated it to the several Gentlemen of Council they are unanimously of Opinion that it is absolutely necessary to reinforce the Garrison of Arcot as expeditiously as possible.

26th In Consequence of the General Opinion that Arcot should be reinforc'd the President this day detach'd Lieutenant Symonds [illegible] with the Men he lately commanded for the Protection of those Parts returnd hither a few days ago [illegible] Party of Europeans & Sepoys with Orders to proceed directly to Arcot and remain there with fifteen Europeans and return the Remainder of the Party back hither as soon as possible

under

Fort St George April 1753

under the Command of Lieutenant Paterson. That if the Enemy should offer to interrupt him in his Road to avoid if possible coming to an Engagement and to encamp securely at Night

The President at the same time wrote to Capt Sanderson that he was surprized he should notwithstanding the repeated Letters to the contrary send out Parties on such Adventures, that the Nabob's Permissions should have no Weight in Opposition to positive Orders which he now repeats that no Detachment be made from the Garrison on any Pretext whatever

At a Consultation Present

Thomas Saunders Esq. Gov.. Pres.t
Charles Boddam Henry Bonney
Alexander Wynch John Smith

Monday the 30th

The President acquaints the Board that Mr Starke receives from Major Lawrence with the Letters were sent at Chellambrenne on their Way to Tindevanam with out Molestation and that Monsr was at Villenour

Copy of a Letter from the President to Ma.jor Lawrence is now read and approved and is as follows

To Stringer Lawrence Esq.r

Fort St George 26th April

Mr Starke advises me every
and that Monsr is at Villenour nothing occurs
Dupleix and probably concerting a Plan

I hope this will find
Stock the Magazines of Store and
examined & replenished as soon as poss

Fort St George April 1753

is on our Troops no Step should be taken but with Captain Dal-
ton's Approbation and that this be settled openly with Civility
Cawn and all unlefs People heard out of the Place

The Nabob's Family can be of no Service Here
If he was to take this Opportunity of removing them to Cuttack
it might be attended with many Advantages

I suppose we shall soon know the Enemy's
Motions if Arcot Trichy or Changlepat be attack'd Twill be impos-
sible for them to hold out long.

I am perswaded Mr Dupleix's Scheme is to
withdraw some Forces from Salabat Jung, no time is to be lost
in concerting Measures to traverse his Designs, if the Morattas
could be drawn off from him twould be a great Point, the Mog
& Tanjours joining us would be another, Consult with the Nab
bob and learn his Designs, the Expence is large how will he
support it

The more expeditious you are in finishing
Affairs at Trichenopoly the better, Captain Dalton may possibly
desire to be relieved, I don't think any Officer so proper for that
Command as himself

Captain Sanderson has very indiscreetly
sent out a Small Party very near Velour who are all kill'd wound'd
or taken Prisoners with the Loss of their Guns, Lieutenant Smith and
five Men are Prisoners at Velour, Ensign Melotte & Doctor Forpleas
wounded, this has oblig'd us to reinforce that Place I am

Sir

Your most obedient Servant
Thomas Saunders

P.S. I have received your Letters N° 8 & 9, agreable to your
desire Orders from the Governour & Council have been sent;

The President acquaints the Board that notwith-
standing his repeated Orders to Captain Sanderson & Lieut Innes to
forge

Fort. St George April 1753

press the Nabobs Officers to lay in a good Store of Provisions on
Arrival & Changleput he has reason to apprehend these Instances
however proving have had but little Effect and that how pleasant
in the same Situation as Trichinopoly under which Circumstances
if the Enemy during Major Lawrence's Absence with the Army should
attack either of them they would probably not be able to hold out till
Succours could arrive he has therefore directed Mr Wynch (Contractor
for supplying the Army) to lay in two Months Provisions in each
of those Garrisons which the Board approve

Two Companys of Sellous Cheyes under the Command
of Annupasing having complaind that large Sums are due to them
which though they have frequently applyd for to the Nabobs Offi-
cers they have never been able to obtain, the President represented
that Case to Abdul Vahab Cawn and recevd for Answer that they
are to be paid by the Amuldar of Conjeveram As these Sepoys
are good Subjects of they brought Dissatisfaction should go over
to the Enemy which some probable, the Loss of them at this Time
would be some Prejudice to the Nabob he Agreed to interest
ourselves with Sumpetroon (the Nabobs Duan) and the said Amul
dar to procure the Payment of the Arrears and that the Sepoys
be sent to them

Jno Saunders
Geo Woodhouse
Henry Lowndes
W Wynch
John

Fort St George May 1753

At a Consultation Present

Thomas Saunders Esq Gov Pres
Charles Boddam Henry Powney
Alexander Wynch John Smith

Monday
the 7th

The President Lays before the Board a Letter from Balazarow and another from the Mysore Dalaway with his Answer to the Latter, the Contents are as follow

That from Balazarow acknowledges the Receipt of the Presidents Letters and greatly commends our Conduct in assisting Nabob Anaverdy Cawn, he further says that he intended to have marched with his Army into this Province to settle it but the Monsoon approaching obliges him to decline it That however he has desired the Mysore People and the Governour of Pondichery to conclude a Peace with Anaverdee Cawn & recommends it to us also to use our Endeavours to effect it and adds that after the Monsoon he will come into these Parts with a proper Army.

That Dallonay's Letter renews his Claim to Extensions to Trichenopoly, accuses the Nabob of Trachery in not surrendering it conformable to his two Agreements for which he received a valuable Consideration and adds that if the Nabob had no Right to give away Trichenopoly it was Proper in him to agree to it. In regard to his Promise of settling the Nabob in the Arcot Province to refer to the said Province nobody he says will appear whether he was not to have performed this in consequence of the Forts being delivered up to him, and if he has committed Hostilities it was only against those who opposed his taking Possession of what he esteems his

Proper

Fort St George May 1753

Property. That Mavaree is not in his Pay and even if he were he did not join the French till the Term for the Surrender of Devenopoly was expired without a Compliance on the Nabobs Part throughout the whole he seems to charge us as Principals or at least to lay great Blame on us in this Affair and complains of the Detention here of Vencatarow his Vakeel

The President in answer tells him that his Master he considers him as a Principal, that he has no Right to Treat nopoly or Devi, that he enter'd into a Strict Alliance & Friendship with Nabob Anaverdy Cawn and for the Custom of our Nation inviolably to observe Engagements of this Sort, Master he just he should support his Ally and if Differences have arisen between the Nabob & Dalaway he is not blameable, however he would willingly be a Friend to the one and the other, but at the same time he is of Opinion that they are both culpable, the Nabob for promising to give what was not his and the Dalaway for offering to take it knowing the former had no Right to alienate it. That the only way to recover what he has advanced for the Nabob is to settle him in his Government, not to ruin him and assist his Endeavours to bring about a Reconciliation between them assuring him that no Harm shall happen to Vencatarow but that he shall return in Safety

The Corrp Correspondence is also produced &
read

To the Hon^ble Thomas Saunders Esq^r

Major Lawrences Letters are as follow

Sir

The Army in general are much
fatigued with the March from Tanjore

Fort St George May 1753

hall yesterday at Chellumbrum, what retards us so constantly
is the Desertion of our Coolies & Drivers, the falling down of our
Europeans through the Heat of the Season and the Want of
Conveyances to bring them on so that our Numbers are greatly
by decreas'd both in Military and Seapoys. However as the
Tanjoreens shew us a good Countenance and a ready Assist-
ance I am in hopes we shall finish the March without
halting more than one or two days at most.

I have no certain Advice of the Enemys Motions
the Nabob informs me that Captain Dalton has heard of our
Intentions to relieve him and that the Garrison in general
is in high Spirits on the Occasion and Clement Stevenson
met me on the March to day gives me to believe that the
Tanjoreens & Polygars will join the Nabob when he is further
advanced in the Country

We have found it absolutely necessary to pay
our Coolies &c. the former Peice of a quarter of a Rupee and
Mr Palk informs me that our Cash will be expended the middle
of next Month, which induces me to desire you will be pleased
to contrive some Method of supplying us. Upon the Nabob
has it not in his Power to assist us with Money though I
shall be as prefsing as possible whenever there is the least
probability of Succeeding.

I cannot form any Judgment of the King
of Mysore's Force & Situation at Trichinopoly but I shall be
glad of your Directions in case any Overtures are made or
proper to be made. I am Sir

Your most Obedient
Humble Servant
S. Lawrence

Camp at Scally
26th April 1753.

No. 158

Fort St George May 1753

To the Honble Thomas Saunders Esq

Sir

My last was of the 26th from Sadly
Came yesterday to this Place, where we pass'd the last Night
but indifferently as it rain'd very heavily and having no Tent
for our People

At noon I received a Copy of your Letter
of the 23d from Mr Starke to which I can only say that I am
but a very imperfect Judge of the Springs of the different Acts
etc which prevail in this Country and the Consequences to be
expected from them, whatever is thought to be for the Interest
of our Honble Masters I shall always gladly execute and to the
best of my Capacity

The King of Tanjour is certainly very
Cautious, indeed I cannot blame him as his Country is at Stake
I have received two Letters from him assuring me of his friend-
ship to the English Nation and his Desire to become a
Mediator between them & the Mysore King which he has
already signified to the latter and is in daily Expectation
of his Answer, to morrow I am to have a Conference with one
of his Generals and as we advance nearer the Metropolis
Mr Call will wait on him which Mr Starke will be the pro-
perest Method to find out his Sentiments

I have often represented to the Board
the Situation of his several Forts and the great Necessity of
their being well provided but all to no Purpose, and as to
three or four Thousand good Horse it is as impossible for him
to raise them as to pay those who are already on his Hands
though of Little or no use. Whether we are able to support the
Charge and what Methods will be most prudent to pursue
I must beg to leave to you

In the present Situation I believe the

Fort St George May 1753

is no Danger of the Nabob's accepting any Proposals from the Enemy. I shall always be as cautious as possible on my Side to Secrecy and I have more than once desir'd that nobody will enlarge in their Letters on publick Affairs

I have no Advices from Capt Dalton but those that Morari and his Allies are moving towards Tichinopoly I am Sir Your most Obed & most humble Servt

Postscript 29 April 1753. J. Lawrence

Captain Chase (whom Major Lawrence left on the Command of Trivedy) in several Letters to Mr Starke advises to the following Effect. That in one of the 26th April he says he is informd by his Spies in the Enemy's Camp that two thousand Europeans & Topasses, two thousand Moratta Horse and twelve hundred Seapoys with four Guns were marchd after one Clock towards Tschenapoly. That two Platoons of French, one hundred and twenty Topasses & Coffreys and about three hundred Seapoys attempted to take Possession of Trivedy Village but he sallying drove them out of it & pursued them two Miles, he omitted to tell Mr Starke he gave the disagreeable News that the Enemy appearing in the Morning on the Topa near Trivedy Village, he and Lieutenant Davis and Ensign Cudmore with sixty Europeans and two hundred Seapoys to prevent their taking Possession of the Village, but Mr Davis to annoy them the more, marchd out towards them where a large Party of Moratta Horse attackd him in flank, our Seapoys immediately ran away which threw the Europeans into Confusion & Morattas took the Advantage, rode over upon them, killd some & took the rest Prisoners. That some of the Seapoys returnd to the Fort which he will defend to the last Extremity. That the Enemy are in Possession of the

Fort St George May 1753

the Village and keep a brisk Fire which is returnd. In one
of the 3d he mentions that the Enemy have erected a Bomb
Battery and are throwing Shells into the Fort, but that the
Garrison are in good Spirits

The President on Receipt of Captain Chaves Let
ter of the 26th April giving an account of his Successful Atte
mpts to him under Date the 3d May as follows

"Mr Starke has sent me Copy of your Letter to
"him giving an Account of the Enemys Attempt to make a
"Lodgment in Tonedy Town and their Retreat. As your post
"ular Care in the Post of Tonedy for the Nabob, he cautions
"that by any Trifling Successes you are not led into an Inde
"cent as at this Juncture the Security of the Place and
"not any Advantages over the Enemy is the Point in view

By Letters from Captain Dalton the Enemys
Situation and Intention appear to be much the same as
mentiond in his last Advices. They have a prodigious Num
of Coolys at Work in throwing up Intrenchments all round
the Fort, however some Coolys from Sondamani Cavalry found
means to get one hundred & fifty Sheep, some Rice & two Bullocks
the Fort & promises shortly to bring more

Letters from Arcot & Changlepat mention that
the Country is at present undisturbd and they do not hear of
any Parties of the Enemy that way

The Presidents Letters to Major Lawrence from
last Consultation are as follow viz.t

To Stringer Lawrence Esq.r

Sir

Fort St George 4th May 1753

I have recvd your Letter of the 26th ultimo
By Advices from St David every thing appears

Fort St George May 1753

quiet there and at Trinedy, I hear of no Forces this way that I conclude they are marchd after you

Arcot has been reinforced with two Battalions and some Men, I hope Captain Sanderson will pay a strict regard to his Orders and send aboard no more Parties

Mr Starke wrote me Mark Wigram has made his Escape and is safe at Conjeveram, I have contradicted a Report saying may be made a Slave of Pannoe has not been effected by Bribery

I have lately no Advices of Salabat Jung or Balasaheb The Mysore Dalaway has wrote me a Letter the Contents of which are his Pretensions to Trichenopoly and the Nabobs Injustice interspersd with pompous Relations of the Power & Riches of his Country

You desire Directions in case Overtures should be made, I have already wrote you & Mr Starke of Publick Affairs which from the Nabob demand some Explanation Efforts have been made to engage the Enemy but proved unsuccessful large Sums have been advanced as yet only replaced with Promises, each Month will add to them and the Enemy must probably grow Stronger The Nabob shows a surprising Supineness, Providence and the English are his only Resource, indeed I wish he may not be too sensible that our Interests are greatly concernd in his Fortune, for this as it will can be support the Expences or can or ought we to do it? For our own parts we can judge and I think it will be absolutely necessary to bring him to the Point & know from him his Resolution and Intention, some Caution should be us'd on this as he may again come to Terms with the Enemy as he did at Trichenopoly; By this you will be able to judge of his Strength to pursue his Plan and the Pro-

posal

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Fort St George May 1753

Proposals he intends to make for Treaty, he has not made a Word of the Latter if he comes to come Accommodation with the Dalloway we may act as a Friend to both of them but be cautious that we don't involve ourselves in any thing that may bring us into future Disputes and Quarrels and that he does not come to any Agreement that may be prejudicial to us

It does not appear to me that he is capable to provide & maintain a Force equal to the present Occasions now I think we can do it, therefore if he can accommodate his Affs I would be best, but if he does that with the Dalloway here will he do it with the French who are inexorable & should he be false can that the Dalloway does not deceive him? At all Events Moraire must be drawn off, as several of the Countries depend upon his & the Dalloway's Measures its impossible for me to write determinately of them

Lieut. Frazer is dead and Ensign Melville in dangerous way I am Sir

Your most Obedient Servant
Thomas Saunders

To Stringer Lawrence Esq.

Fort St. George 5th May 1753

Sir

I wrote you last night and today receive your N° 11

I am of your Opinion in regard to the Affair of Tanjore who is cautious, he is so far blameable because no actual Application be provided to pay the Nabob at the same time declaring that if the Mysore Army got Tuckenpoly first would be paid, I think you should not be too open with them in regard to your Measures nor conclude too much on his Mediation

Changlepat has two Months Store in it and by that time I hope Arcot has the same this is upon no

Fort St George May V753

Account to be made use of for daily Expence but accord

Captain Chace has fallen into the same Error
Captain Sanderson and lost Ensign Davis and sixty Men wh
are either killd or taken Prisoners

I must repeat that I don't conceive the Nabob
is able to support the Expence nor do I think we can enable
to do it, therefore after hearing his Proposals you may advise
him to pursue such Measures as are most beneficial to Him &
us, his Debt in December was ten Lacks and is now greatly
increasd, how to remburse this should be considerd and that he
enter into no Measures detrimental to our Affairs, as the same
time as he has the Government of the Provence whatever is
done must be his Act that we may not be hereafter embarrassd
In regard to Treaty I believe you are convinced the Enemy
will not beat, for may and I think should come to an ave
cable Composition with Mustaffa Ally Cawn and possibly with
the Patamars but he should be careful that he does not put
it out his Power to ruin him by any immediate Concessions

Notwithstanding the Patamars Money the Troops
must be at a great Expence, they may wait the Arrival of
their Ships and Advices but if those are not very agreeable
I fancy they will be heartily tird as well as We are and
possibly beat, should the present Negotiation succeed the
Nabob may then propose it to them which is the only Me
thod to settle the Province in Peace

Letters from Bombay last Night and some

f

Fort St George May 1753

of an old Date from Europe but no particular Advices

I am Sir Your most obedient Servant

Thomas Saunders

All which the Board approve

Tho: Saunders

Geo Woodham

Henry Lowry

Wm Wyndh

John Smith

At a Consultation Present

Thomas Saunders Esq Gov. Pr.

Charles Boddam Henry Lowry

Friday Alexander Wynch John Smith

the 11th

The President lays before the Board

the Private Correspondence which is read as follows viz.

From Major Lawrence To the President

Sir

Inclosed are two Letters for you and Mr

Marke from Tondaman who promises all the Assistance in

his Power &c 20, 21, 30, 31 The King of Tanjore has written

80, 81, 82 to join with two thousand Horse provided we

half

Fort St George. May 1753

halt two days at Condore where I purpose to march on the
morning. None of my Letters have yet reach'd 43. 45. 48 (the
Dunopoly) at least I have no answer, by that of the 22 of last
Month which I forwarded to you yesterday. I am glad to find
that a Supply is got in and I make no doubt but we shall
soon restore it to an open Communication

Pray favour me as soon as possible with the
Instructions in case of Overtures from 45 46 48 (Mysore King
a new gold Plain Watch will be very acceptable to 48 51 52
(the King of Tanjore)

I hear that Chellumbrum is surrounded &
hope it will want no Assistance that 55 57 59 60. 61 (Mr
Starke the English) can give it

I am sorry to inform you that 50 of 105
93. 95 (the Military) are sick. The Loss of Captain Cayzer
Mr Trustler and others unable to do their Duty make it
highly necessary that the Vacancies should be fill'd up. The
Volunteers with us behave well & deserve Encouragement
but Hambletons Colour is so disagreeable to the Private
Men, that it will be impossible for him ever to carry a pro
per Command besides he does not appear to me to have any
Turn to the profession. I am

Sir Your most humble & most Obed.t Serv.t
J. Lawrence

Fort St George 1.st May 1753.
To the Honble Thomas Saunders Esq.r

From the President to Major Lawrence.

Fort St George 9.th May 1753

To Stringer Lawrence Esq.r

Sir

I have none of your's to reply to

Fort. St George May 1753

Since I last wrote you I have receivd a Let
ter said to come from Balazarow, wherein he says the Labour
of the Season prevents his coming to the Province as intended
but that he purposes it after the Monsoon, He recommends
a Reconciliation between all Parties and mentions to have
wrote the Dalaway & Mons.r Dupleix on this Subject.

Mr Starke writes me Tranquebar is closely besieg'd
Mr Duplaix refuses to give Subsistence or
afford a Surgeon to the Prisoners in Pondicherry, I dont
guess he will persist in this

It is reported the Mysore King accommodates
Affairs with Balazarow for twenty five Lacks of Rupees

What you have wrote me concerning the
King of Tanjours offering to be Mediator raises some Suspicion
as I have not a Line from him on the Subject and his Vakeel
assures me it cannot be, neither have I heard from Mr Na
bob Srirangh he told you he had wrote me a long Letter, the
Vakeel says the King of Tanjour has no such Intentions
that he has been in the French Interest, at least neutral
since Manojees Disgrace & that his Intention is only to assist
should this be the Case and that the Dalaway is joind by Mor
rar and the French and at the same time if the King of
Tanjour should be treacherous, I am apprehensive you may
be immersd in Difficulties and as you have the greatest
part of our Forces with you, should any Accident happen
our Affairs will be irretrievable, I think therefore you cannot
be too cautious in preventing your Communication with St D.
being cut off and the greatest Expedition is necessary in forces
your Affairs there as we have it not in our Power to relieve

any

Fort St George May 1753

any Place and the Enemy's Army will attake every one

I am Sir

Your most Obedient Servant

Thomas Saunders

Extract of a Letter from Mr Starke to the President dated 5th May 1753

"Indos'd is a Letter from Mr Major Call at
"me from Captain Stenus to me relating to Lieutenant Dr
"ois &c Prisoners which I forward that you may give Mr D
"plus such an Answer as you judge proper

"In regard to your Letter of the 23d April ad
"dress'd to the Major and me jointly of which you ask whether
"it has my Approbation I must beg to declare giving my s
"parate Opinion till the Army returns from Imbenopoly as
"we shall have much better Helps to form a Plan on after
"being what Turn Affairs take there They are now playing
"time and absolutely require a little Time to be answered.

From Mr Starke to the President

Honble Sir

I have received your Favours of the 4th &
5th Instant, inclosing a Letter for the Nabob, one for the Dalaway
and another for Major Lawrence which last is now before me

Trichy surrender'd last Night at 5 o'clock,
by the Report of a Topaz who got away in the hurry he further
says the Men refused to maintain the Fort any longer as a Breach
was made & the Defences destroyed.

As there is no Time to be lost I look it
my Duty to take Notice of your Letter which however shall be
forwarded as directed.

And first it has ever been my fixed Opinion

and

Fort St George May 1753

and I thought the General one that the Nabob is entirely at our Disposal, that whatever you judge for the Interest of the whole he must stand to, and indeed the Situation of his Affairs demonstrate that it cant be otherwise

You mention that it will be necessary to bring the Nabob to the Field whether he can support the Expence of the War; I'll undertake to answer that Head

In regard to the Question whether we ought to do it, I can only say that You and the Gentlemen of Council who have hitherto conducted every thing are the best Judges, Major Lawrence & I have only meddled in those particulars that fell immediately under our Inspection

I don't think the Nabob has any Right to make Terms with the Daleway but what are dictated by You and the Major has already positively declard that he will not act under Discretionary Orders; it necessarily follows that unless you manage all Negotiations yourself or trust somebody that will undertake it with full Powers from you and your Council, the Interests of our Honble Masters must be endangerd

Morarow can never be drawn off if the Dalaway is not satisfied there's no Occasion for consulting the Nabob in any Respect, he must & will be guided by your Observations procurd from the Dalaway

As Heart entirely devoted to the Company's Service and beg Leave to add that if we are in a Labyrinth occasiond by the unhappy Disputes between You and the Major nothing but the most vigorous Efforts on your Part can extricate us I call God to witness that no means have been left untry by me to accommodate Matters and I will continue to do all

Fort St George May 1753

I can but Time is precious, let us therefore make the most of it and whatever you Order or propose determinately shall be duly obeyd; Tis in vain to expect that the Major will ever give his Opinion in general unless he's present with you and your Gentlemen of Council are certainly more able to settle the Point in Question than I who am a single Person, I therefore submit entirely to you & them being with the greatest Respect

Fort St David
8th May 1753

Hond Sr
Your most Obedient Humble Sr
Richard Starke

The Honble Thomas Saunders Esqr

Extract of a Letter from Captain Schaub Commander at Pondicherry to Mr Starke dated 5th May 1753

"Mr Dupleix has this Instant sent for me to desire me to communicate to you that although he has a Right to award the Officers he has taken to Europe, by reason "says he that they were taken in a place belonging to the Nation, he is willing to exchange them as well as the Soldiers "if you are authorized to do it &c

The foregoing Letter & Extract being read the President in the first place desires the Sentiments of the Board in relation to what Mr Starke has wrote them, after some time spent in Deliberation they declare it is their unanimous Opinion that by the obvious Sense of the said Letter Mr Starke seems desirous of declineing any Concern in Governmt Affairs as they don't appear at present in the most favourable Light & would willingly leave the whole Burthen on the President & Council here, though as a Member of it, notwithstanding his Absence he is doubtless equally oblig'd to deliver his Opinion when call'd upon as those who

Fort St George May 1753

are present and much more so as one of the secret Committee, of which, except the President none of the Council here are Members, and as in the present Precarious Situation of Affairs it may be necessary according as they vary to give immediate Orders to Major Lawrence, the Execution whereof will be greatly delay'd by waiting for Mr Starke's Opinion which for that Reason above ment'd is judg'd necessary on such Occasions; The Board are of Opinion that his Presence here for some time will be extremely proper for the greater Expedition of all emergent Business as well as to determine the Manner of carrying on the Private Correspondence in future and a Letter to Mr Starke is order'd to be drawn accordingly.

The Board then consider'd of Mr Dupleix's Proposal through the means of Captain Schaub for the Exchange of the Prisoners he lately took at Tanjore and are of Opinion that We have no Right to treat on this Subject as we only act as Auxiliaries to Nabob Anawerdy Cawn, under the Terms on which the Proposal is couched seem as if calculated to draw from us a tacit Confession of the Legality of the French Pretensions to Tanjore, as well as their Right of sending the Officers to Europe which can by no means be admitted. Resolv'd therefore that Mr Starke be desir'd to request Captain Schaub that if Mr Dupleix has any thing to offer on this head he must apply to the Nabob Anawerdy Cawn Bahadur and at the same time to mention that the President did some time ago at Captain Pavaud's Request offer to intercede with the Nabob that he might be exchanged for Captain Mackelyne which if agreable to Mr Dupleix he is willing to use his Interest to obtain.

Fort St George May 1753

The Present State of Affairs have occasioned
on it the unanimous Opinion that the Supposed
false Friendship of the King of Tanjore for whose Protection
we are now any Longer to hope, the great Quantities
Every second from Morattoe what it we are destitute of
want of Horse, the Nabobs incapacity to support the Charge
of the War or to pay any Part of his large Debt the
Burthen it will be to the Company to defray the Cost and
Demands of the Army and the Distress their Affairs must
of Necessity be subjected to unless the Nabob be vigorously
supported, under an Accommodation with the Daleway on
most desirable Event if to be brought about on Terms consistent
with the General Plan of establishing the Nabob on the
Government and thereby setting Bounds to the unbounded
Ambition of the French, the first Step to which must be
to draw off Morattoe, the better to effect this his Highness
that Major Lawrence and Mr Robert Palk be fully empowered
as Mediators and not as Principals to make and receive
proals for conciliating the Difference between the Nabob and
Dalloway and a Draught of a Letter to come as Enclosed
are to know if now read and approved Copy whereof follows

To Stringer Lawrence Esq
and Mr Robert Palk

Fort St George 11th May 1753

Gentlemen

Major Lawrence having advised us
that the King of Tanjore has offered to act as a Mediator
to reconcile the Difference between the Nabob & Tanjore King
and as we are of Opinion such a Reconciliation is absolutely
necessary

Fort St George May 1753

necessary to our own as well as the Nabobs Affairs, we desire you will endeavour to cultivate it hereby giving you full Power and Authority to do the same and doubting you would do it upon the best Terms you can the following is but what would be the most advantageous.

That it is evident that the Mysore King's Demands will be Exhorbitant, if it should be so, that if it be agreed to be delivered it be on a limited Time & Condition.

That the Mantras be drawn off from the French.

That the Mysore King & Morattas shall endeavour to settle the Nabob in the Province.

That the Mysore King pay such a Sum of Money to the Nabob and of perpetuate that the Debt he is subject to large be cleared.

That the King of Tanjore be included in this Treaty the Mysore Kings not to molest him & his Country.

That we do not appear as a Power in this Affair nor Tanjore may evacuate the Place at the time appointed.

That you endeavour to prevent the Nabob to be entering into Engagements inconsistent to us that as it plainly appears he is not able to support the Expence you possibly can by all means to treat.

That if the Nabob can find any other Means to bring about an Accommodation shall be more agreeable but that our Bank it ought to be effected as soon as possible.

These are what occur to us, if they are not to be attained for must do the best we can and we leave it to you to pursue the Measures you judge most

proper

Fort St George May 1753.

proper We are Gentlemen

Your most obedient Servants

Thomas Saunders

Charles Boddam

Henry Bowyer

Alexander Hamilton

John Smith

To accompany the foregoing Instructions a Letter from the President to Major Lawrence is read and approved and is as follows.

To Stringer Lawrence Esq^r

Fort St George 11^th May 1753.

Sir

Last Night Mr Starke arrived of the Surrender of Trinedy that nothing may be wanting to your Expeditious Dispatch of Affairs we have given full powers to You & Mr Palk to accommodate Matters by such Measures as you judge proper I heartily wish you Success

At noon arrived Ships Clinton & Suffolk they bring Recruits & Officers inclosed is an Extract from the General Letter They saw at the Cape several French Ships who have Recruits Artificers Women Children on board, I believe their Reinforcement this year will be very considerable, therefore its my Opinion that Reconciliation with the Nabob & Dalloway is the best Step that can be taken, I still doubt the King of Tanjores sincerity & the Nabobs real Intentions, You upon the Spot will be capable of judging of it, I will write you again to morrow Night

I am Sir Your most obedient Servant Tho: Saunders

&c

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The President is desired to send the Instructions
to Mess.rs Lawrence & Call under Cover to Mr. Starke, that if
he approves he may sign & forward the same

Thos Saunders

Geo.e Pigot

Henry Lawrence

Wm Mackett

To Richard Starke Esq.r

Sir

The President has communicated to us the
Letters he has received from You dated the 5.th & 8.th Instant
by Them we observe you are desirous to record Every concern
in the Management of Country Affairs and to leave the re
to us, alledging that We alone have acted therein and that
You & Mr Lawrence have been so further engaged in those Affa
what came immediately under your Inspection. As you
a Member of the Private Committee (which except the Pres.t
none of us are) and all Affairs relating to the Country Go
ment by our Honble Masters Orders are more immediately
under their Direction which in a joint Letter with Mr Lawren

Fort St George May 1753

Lately you concur'd in, we judge your Opinion entirely reasonable
in regard to the Correspondence but as your Distance from hence
renders it very inconvenient and in cases of Emergency or the
present Situation of Affairs may be of ill Consequence, we think
it absolutely proper for you to be with us for a short time
that we may determine in what Manner to carry it on for the future
and therefore desire you will take the first Opportunity by Sea
of coming here leaving in your Absence the Charge of the Manage-
ment and the Management of all our Honble Masters Affairs
with Mr Thomas Cooke & Co Council

We observe by what Mr Schaub has said to
you that Mr Dupleix is inclin'd to make an Exchange of
Prisoners, but we don't think we can any ways interfere not
being only Allies not Principals which We find he would en-
deavour to make us acknowledge Ourselves, he must therefore
make his Application on that Head to Nabob Anawerdee Cawn
It is true the President some time since at the Intreaty of Capt
Pascaud did offer to intercede with the Nabob for his Liberty ex-
chang'd for Captn [illegible] if agreeable to Mr Du-
[illegible] must to prevail on the
Nabob to consent to [illegible] please to intimate to
Captain Schaub. We are [illegible]

Your most [illegible] and Servants
Thomas Saunders
Charles Boddam
Henry Powney
Alexander Wynch
John Smith

Fort St George
13th May 1753.

At

Fort St George May 1753

At a Consultation Present

Thomas Saunders Esq Gov. Presd.

Charles Boddam Henry Lowney

Monday Alexander Wynch John Smith

the 14th

The President Lays before the Board the

Military Correspondence

Major Lawrence writes as follows

Sir

I came to this Place the 2d with the S

Ld visited the King of Tanjaur the 3d who gave us a very

friendly Reception and agreed to join provided we would

stay our March two days, the Nabob very readily consented

this Morning their whole Force of Horse & Foot came out to

under the Command of Gandarow Monagee Successor, at wh

desire I have detached one hundred Europeans two Guns an

more Topays with his Troops to beat up Monajees Quarters

is said to be at a Pagoda two Coss distance with his Body

guard &

have done more to please the King

than

to

Service as I imagine the Na

we remain To morrow we proceed to Tuck

Day to Dalaway's Choultry & then to Tuck

quity where I expect to find the Enemy Encampd

I must signal to you that I think it be

by marching some Miles for as Accommodation will be got the

(the King of Mysore) should be thought of & if possible com

immediately and if 64 66, 65 the French move towards

45, 46 (Trichinopoly) or Head cast 53 57 59 (Mr Starke

Fort St George May 1753

give us some Diversion in 21, 23, 19, 88 / Fort St David

The King of Tanjore seems so sensible of the
Interest in joining that I am in hopes his Attachment to the
Cause may be depended on though 87 18 45 / Morarce / 80 90 91
46 / the King of Mysore / have us'd all Kinds of Methods to divert
51 57 53 / King of Tanjour / from 80 81 82 / joining / nor joy
61, 105, 106, / Soldiers European & Topaz / are so much in
103, 104 / distress / that they cannot 62, 64, 68 / march / he is so
has hurt us much, but the King is pleas'd to find that you
intend to send him a Gold Watch as a Token of your Esteem

The Detachment is returnd with Intelligence
that the Morattas are march'd off

When we come near Calladdy part of 87 81 89
the Tanjoreens / will return. I am in great fear of 70, 71, 72
want of Money / I am Sir Your most humble and
most obedient Servant

Camp near Tanjour
5th May 1753

Stringer Lawrence

To the Honble Thomas Saunders Esq

Since finishing my Letter I have good
Reason to suspect 55, 65, 23 / Cuddery / in 79 80 81 the King
of Tanjour / as his People are all returnd / I believe with
80, 81, 82 & 96 43, 68 / join and march

Captain [illegible] advanced that having
compleated an advanced Post and got an eighteen Pounder
in it which reach'd the Dalawa Camp, he retreated under
Cover of it through a hollow Road with the whole Army un
perceiv'd and when he got so near the Enemy that his Post
could pass through their Tents he began to fire from two
Field Pieces and discharg'd near thirty Rounds before they could
assemble out of their Camp in any Number to produce Sum
and then returnd in good Order to the Advanced Post the Enemy

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pursuing them quite under the Fire of it which quickly obliged them to retire. As soon as he had Intelligence that the Enemy were returnd to their Camp in Security & had unsaddled their Horses he again advanced through the same Wood unperceivd and discharg'd as many more Rounds amongst them which threw the whole Camp into Confusion but his Numbers were too small to venture at any thing further so retreated back to the Fort and at noon o'clock gave them a third Alarm which occasioned great Consternation among them yet the Dalaway maintain'd his Ground but on his repeating the Attack the next Morning they in great Disorder quitted their Camp which he immediately took Possession of while the Enemy retreated towards Agra from whence they had Supplies of Provisions have been brought into the Fort the Enemy continue Hostilities extremely much disquieted which they will probably quit on the Nayers Approach.

Geo. Pigot

Henry Berry

Jeffreys

John Lewis

Fort St George May 1753

18 The President having received a Letter from Richard Stratton acquainting him that Chellumbrum is again besieged by the Enemy, that we have a Party of fifteen Men there & desires to know whether he shall endeavour to send on a Reinforcement the same was communicated to the several Members of the Council who were unanimously of Opinion that if the place is tenable with such an additional Strength as can be spared from Fort St David it ought certainly to be reinforced otherwise not, and that Mr Starke's Vicinity affords how much better Helps to judge of this than can be now obtained here. In consequence of which Opinion the President wrote to Mr Starke to the foregoing Effect

At a Consultation. Present

Thomas Saunders Esq. Gov. Presid.
Charles Boddam Henry Bowcy
Alexander Wynch, John Smith
Charles Bourchier

Monday the 21st

The President lays before the Board the Cover by'd Military Correspondence, containing as follows.

The King of Tanjour vindicates his late Behaviour by saying that the only Reason which prevented him from joining the Nabob was the fear of having his Country laid waste by Morarec and the French before the Harvest was got in and that being done it would take him up a Month to collect the Revenues after which he intended to have acted more to our Satisfaction, but on the Intelligence the Nabob's March with the Army through his Territories towards Morarec that he has ravaged and laid waste his Country with

Fire

180.

Fort St George May 1753

Sire & Sword whereby he has sustained a Loss which he computes at ten Lacks, however relying on our Protection and the Nabobs & Major Lawrences Request he ordered an Army to join them which has made the Mysore People, Morarow & the French his Cutter Enemies and as his late Losses by the Plunder of his Country put it out of his Power to maintain his Army he desires we will assist him with Men & Money as we do the Nabob, without which he is not able to protect his Country against Invaders

Kisnagee Punt our Vakeel to Balazarow writes that the many Difficulties he has met with on the Road by reason of the Troubles in every Part of the Country has retarded him so much that he has not been able to reach Balazarows Army but that he was got as far as Adony which is within Two or Six Stages of him & hopd soon to be now there, he says that at Adoney he met with Balazarows Vakeel who informd him that Salabat Jung had wrote to his Master that he was inclind to confer the Government of the Carnateck Country on Murtaz Alley Cawn Grandson of Peter Sid that Balazarow disapprovd it & recommended Mahomed Alley Cawn as the fittest Person That the Vakeel further informd him the Mysore King had offerd his Master a Carrol of Rupees to obtain him the Sirt & Trichenopoly which he rejected Kisnagee Punt adds that Balazarow has found large Sums of Money and raisd the Country to a very great Degree Enough which he has paid, and having settled Affairs at Mysore is returning back

The Director of Chellumbrum advises that a Detachment of French Sepoys with Artillery having surrounded the Fort, he opposed them with what Forces he could muster but that notwithstanding they got Possession of

Fort St George May 1753

of a Mosque and are endeavouring to return Chellumbrum &c
therefore desire the Deputy Governour of Fort St David &
Chief of Devecotah may be ordered to send a Reinforcement
for their Relief

From the President to Major Lawrence

To Stringer Lawrence Esq^r

Sir

Fort St George 15th May 1753

Since I wrote you under date the 11th Instant
I have received yours of the 5th The Packet has part more given
me Copies of Letters wrote by 45, 46, 47 The Mysore King
Morarow to 51, 52, 53 The King of Tanjore & returns for for
me mentions what you wrote me and the Letter tells them
there is an underhand Correspondence between 61 62 63 &
English & French & he desires my Sentiments which is 1st 61
62 & to join the English & and that he may at the same time
act the Friendly Part.

I don't think 62 & 63 & that English have
confidence in 51, 52, 53 & the King of Tanjore & but will make
use of them to serve his Purpose

We shall endeavour to provide for 72, 73 &
want of Money & the sooner a certain Affair is finished, the
better

Colonel Scott is coming out Engineer General
of all the Settlements, though Bengal whither he is to proceed on
the same Ship is what he is particularly designed for

Four Train Companies to be formed of 118
each Officers included

One Captain of Train & two Lieutenants coming
Mr Brohier appointed Second Captain
Three Captains of Infantry and one Ensign
Recruits on all the Ships & Coffres

6

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Fort St George. May 1753

I shall be glad to hear of your safety Since &c
with Compliments to the Gentlemen in Camp &c.

Your most Obedt Servt
Thomas Saunders

P.S. Swift 150

Two Letters from Major Lawrence viz.

Sir,

As the Weather was bad and we had no Cover I continued our March yesterday from Trichinopoly & arrived here Last Night, the Enemy made a Show of attacking our Rear but two or three Shot sent them packing notwithstanding it rain'd very heavily We have large Quantity of Baggage under our Convoy. I have desired the Nabob to order all the Polygars to send in Provisions and as to other Affairs I will acquaint you soon. I have sallied a Man & shall proceed with all Expedition if the Rajah will not hearken to Peace. The Nabob sent to him this Morning and is expecting his Answer however that shall not retard us. 100 Cs 106 107 Vizt 70, 71, 73 Inward of Men & Money is a sad Article. Morari is not arrivd but expected. I have recvd no Late Intelligence from St David. I am Sir

Your most humble Most
Obedt Servant
T Lawrence

Trichinopoly
8th May 1753
To the Honble Thomas Saunders Esq

Sir,

On the 8th the day after my Arrival here I acquainted you that the Nabob had made some Proposals towards an Accomodation with the Rajah but receiving no Answer on the 10th at night we set out for Syringham Island and after two Battles the next Morning, the Engagement chiefly with Fieldpieces continued the whole day and after it we returned

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to Trichenopoly, the Enemy's Loss as well in Horses and Men is said to be very great, which may endure him to be more peaceably inclined, the Nabob is so much of this Opinion that he has already sent him a second Letter and if that fails of Success he shall immediately make another Attempt upon Seringham the French Officers, about one hundred Men, one thousand Sepoys and four hundred Horse joind the Rajas some days ago. I am in great Expectation of Answers to my Letters from Chellumbrum and the

Your most humble & most Obedient Servt
Stringer Lawrence

Trichenopoly
12th May 1753
To the Honble Thomas Saunders Esq

The Board having considerd whether any and what further Directions are proper to be given Major Lawrence are of Opinion that if any thing can be effected by Treaty with the Dalloway it will be most advisable to bring them to the Point as soon as possible but if that will not come to Terms that a good Store of Provisions & Necessaries be thrown into Trichenopoly and that the Army return as expeditiously as may be as the French with the Reinforcements they daily expect to arrive will soon be in a Condition to bring a considerable Force into the Field and not only very much distress the Country about St David but greatly interrupt if not totally cut off the Communication between that Place and our Army which may be of dangerous Consequence, especially as by the King of Tanjore Letter 'tis very evident nothing can be expected from him

The following General Letter from Mr Starke is also read viz.t

To the Honble Thomas Saunders Esq President & Governour
& Council of Fort St George

Honble Sir &c.rs

The Letter which I have received from

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from you desiring I would leave this Garison entrusted to my Care at a Time when an Army of Enemies is our Neighbourhood and come to Madrafs to join in your Councils obliges me to offer some Reflections on the State of our Affairs to your Consideration with the hopes of inclineing you to think that my Presence as a Member of the Private Committee as well as Deputy Governour of the Fort is more immediately required here than in any other Place whatever

My Meaning is certainly misunderstood when you observe that 'I am desirous to avoid being concerned in the 'Management of Country Affairs' I have long considered that we are all Fellow Labourers in one Common Cause among whom Unanimity & Friendship ought to subsist in the highest Degree, so that on leaving the whole to You may I hope serve you to facilitate Matters, to remove Difficulties, to husband Time, to give you a Proof of the Confidence I repose in You, not to decline my Advice or Assistance whenever either You or the Board there was a Necessity for it, for both by Inclination & Duty I shall ever esteem it my greatest Happiness to devote myself to the Interest of our Honble Masters

The Observation I made that You are most capable of settling the Differences amongst the Nabobs late Allies now Enemies, is ordinarily just as you have had the General Management but a recent Proof offers that I was resolved to go hand in hand with You, I signd the Address to Mess.rs Lawrence and Pate without Hesitation & so I will every thing else that appears to be calculated for promoting the Publick Good

I come now to speak of the Council of Three which was appointed by our Honble Masters that their Affairs might

be conducted with greater Privacy and there I can observe with
their excellent Disposition on contriving that their Commander
in Chief should always make one as they know the Governor
of the Coast would reside at Madrass, the Second at Fort
David. In his Majesty's Council no Board was ever known
to proceed on Business but when the Treasurer & Governor
were present that the latter might propose his Plan of Measure
or Transactions, the other declare the Strength of the Garrisons
As I am now situated Major Lawrence has frequent Opportunities
of a Personal Interview with me which is always the best and
seems to answer every End designd but if I am remov'd from
him in this terrible Time of Trouble & Disorder what Complaints
will be rad make of Advantages lost for want of a proper
Person to consult with? while on the other Hand I don't see
how Mr Saunders and I can carry on the War without him
as I declare my Ignorance in Military Affairs and can't pretend
to give my Opinion on those Heads till I have heard what he
has to say Another Circumstance which I mentione with
a real Grief I still plainly that one of the Council
if Three should be near the Army, I mean the unhappy Difference
that has long subsisted between the President and the Commander
in Chief We have too many Jealousies amongst us already, why
should we ask to increase them? For these last eight Months
all my Thoughts have been employed on the Means how to conc
liate Matters and when I found it was impossible to do that effect
ally I have done as well as I could that our Honourable
Masters might not suffer; This is the Reason Gentlemen why
things have not been carried on in so regular a Manner as

Our

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one could work but if you will please to listen to what I now propose, I doubt not of removing all Difficulties for the future. I read not tell you that Major Lawrence is dissatisfy'd and that very little real Service can be expected from one in his Circumstances, You declare that 'tis extremely necessary that a Majority of the Private Committee be with You for a short time. I write here to Madrass and don't part with him till every thing that is past be buried in Oblivion. I am a Man who is prevail'd upon by Advice and Consent and I'll be answerable he will execute it to the best of his Judgment with that honest Zeal for the Publick Service which distinguishes his Character. Capt Dalton, Captain Campbell, Captain Gardener, Capt Kilpatrick Officers of Experience may command the Army while he is with you, who had much better be absent from it for one month than prevent one of the distresst Wretches under their Orders for Service.

In regard to myself the Enemy are now besieging Chellumbrum & ravaging the Country to the very Bounds Hedge, several of our Officers & Soldiers are Prisoners in Pondichery, the Seat of the War is in the Neighbourhood all these Circumstances afford Business of the utmost Consequence that cannot be transacted by Mr Cooke and the Council but must come before one of the Private Committee. Let me add that to leave my Charge at a Time when an Enemy is in a Manner at the Gates would shock me extremely. I hope Gentlemen you will take all I have said into your serious Consideration and allow that the Interest of our Honble Masters requires that I should stay where I am at least till Affairs are in a more fixed Condition.

Fort St George May 17th 53

I shall always be ready to declare my Opinion at Board in direct Terms to any Point proposd which may be done by Letter as well as otherwise & that Publick Good commands us to put an End to all Dissentions & be of one mind, that We are of one Spirit, Unanimety & Resolution & no longer waver or Quarrel which must be attended with the greatest Danger Let us then set the Remembrance of all past Injuries & Love one another and I don't fear but we shall still get the better of those common Disturbers of Mankind who are seeking our Ruin

As an Opportunity for going by Sea to Madrass does not offer directly I must beg that you will favour me with a Reply to this Address I am with great Respect

Fort St David
18th May 1753

Honble Sir & Sirs
Your most Obedient humble Servant
Richd Starke

The Board being unanimously of Opinion that the Reasons Mr Starke offers against coming up hither are not to the Point, but on the contrary the absolute Necessity of his presence here for a short time being evident as more may be settled in one Consultation than a Months Correspondence, It is Agreed that he be again ordered to take the Opportunity of the first Sea Conveyance to come hither, leaving the Charge of Fort St David to Mr Cooke & Council and a Letter is now wrote & signd as follows

To Richard Starke Esq

Sir

We have recvd your Letter of the 18th in Answer to ours of the 13th Instant and as We are still of Opinion

for

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for the Reasons we mentiond therein that your Presence is absolutely necessary here, we direct that you make use of the first Opportunity by Sea of coming hither leaving as we before ordrd the Charge of the Garrison and Management of our Honble Masters Affairs to Mr Thomas Cooke & Council whom we have directed to act therein in the same manner as if you was present We are

Fort St George
21 May 1753

Sir

Your most Obedient Humble
Tho Saunders
Chas Boddam
Henry Bonney
Jo Wynch
John Smith
Charles Bourchier

A Letter from Captain Schaub at Pondichery to the President being also read wherein he says that Mr Dupleix has desird him to lay before the President a Proposal for the Exchange of the English Troops and a hundred Men lately taken again French Officers of an equal Rank and the like Number of private Men

The Board are of Opinion that as we are the Principals we ought not to appear in this Affair, but that if it be judgd proper to accept or reject the Proposal it must be the Nabobs Act and the President is desird to acquaint Mr Lawrence herewith and desire his Opinion

The President acquaints the Board that as the Enemy will probably in a short Time have a considerable Force in the Field he is apprehensive they may make some Attempt upon Chingleput or Sheet would our Army continue any considerable Time employed in settling Matters with the

Fort St George May 1753

the Mysore Dalaway and that as those Places are in want of some little Repairs he thinks it will be proper we should take upon us to see it done & charge the Expence to the Rebels Account as it is to no purpose to apply to his Court to obtain the Board acquiesce

Captain Sanderson at Arcot having been seized on account of an ill State of Health Captain Benjamin Roberts appointed to that Command he set out the 17th Instant with Orders on his Arrival to take an exact Account of the Military Stores &c. to see that there be always two Months Provisions in Garrison at least and on no Account to send out small Parties or run any Risques as the Security of the Fort is the principal Thing to be regarded and on all Occasions to be mindful that We act as Allies and not as Conquerors

The like Instructions were also sent to Lieut Greenwillow on whom the Command of Chengalpet has been lately conferd in the Room of Lieutenant Innes recalld on account of his Health

Which the Board approve

Tho: Saunders,
Jno: Bodam
Henry Lonny
W Lynch
John Smith
Ed Monckton

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22 In Consequence of the Resolutions of last Consultation the President this day wrote to Major Lawrence as follows

To Stringer Lawrence Esq^r

Sir, Fort St George 22 May 1753

My last to You was the 15^th Instant since which I have been favour'd with yours of the 8^th & 12^th I was glad to hear of your Success; I should think Tyrrungum could not have in it any Quantity of Stores but yet the Polygars may easily escape.

I have not heard from the Nabob but continue to think of a Reconciliation can be brought about and the Moratta drawn off it will be the best Step that can be taken, the greater his Distress or our Success the more advantageous Terms may be expected but at worst he must be satisfied with ... (Tuticorin etc) As you have full Power I shall only heartily wish you Success, should you be disappointed in this the Measures that appear to me the most suitable to the present Situation are to throw in a Store of Provision with the Expedition and return home.

Trowedy is taken and this is the only Particular of it that I can get tolerable Information of, that Coombrum is besieged and if not relieved by Mr Clarke must fall. As I have no Returns of the Strength of the Detachment I don't know whether he is able to effect it, the Loss of this Place will hurt our Communication greatly, which as the Major Part of our Force is at such a Distance requires our Consideration.

The Vakeel has not been able to reach Balaram's Camp who raises Contributions every where & is returning

Fort St George May 1753

I have received a Letter from the King of Tanjore
I don't think 51. 81. 61

Captain Inchaub writes me that Mr Dupleix
will exchange the Officer and 100 Men As we are not
Principals, I have wrote Mr Starke we can only approve of
Nabob which You will please to do, for Lawrence writes
the Nabob may not reasonably think that one hundred Men
with an Officer added to the Strength of the Enemy already
on the Province may not be of greater Difference to them as
those delivered in Exchange will not compleat a Force of any
great Signification

Since you left us several Little Affairs have happened and I dont think Affairs are reasonably at St David as Swiss Mr Starke declines acting on some Things and questions whether he has Power to act in others, the other day he wrote to know whether he could return Chellumbrum, closely besieged, though he has desertions Call Power to act upon Emergency and if he does so much as to wait for an Answer, its very probable the Place is gone as more can be said I called in an hour than wrote it. a Month, we have desired him to come here for a few days as he may return on the Europe Ships

I believe you may draw upon us from Tanjore I will also endeavour to get Bills here

The French have as yet only one Ship, but said they have a Number of Women, Bags Gold coming out

I have received a Letter from Mr Hunter dated the 10th April, every thing was well please to observe me if I shall send the Train and other Officers that may come

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Fort St George May 28th 1753

if I don't hear from you I shall dont — Sam.

Sir — Your most Obdient Servant

Jno Saunders

23 The President receivd from Mr Hooke copy of a Letter from the Marquis Dupleix to Captain Schaub to the following Effect that he shall be glad of Mr Lawrences release and waits for the necessary Papers for Captain Maskelyne. That he has wrote to Mahomed Ally Cawn about the Exchange of Prisoners and dont doubt but that it is in M. Saunders's Power to hasten it and if he will also obtain the Discharge of all the Prisoners the [Dupleix] will then release from [Schaub] & his Company whom he never considerd as Prisoners but only as Hostages. That Mr Lawrence having been exchangd for Captain Maskelyne at the Desire of the Nabob of Arcot, Salabat Jungs party in this Province, Mr Clive may be exchangd for Mr Law &c. &c.

Which having been communicated to the Gentlemen of Council, the President wrote upon Consultation wrote to Major Lawrence as follows

To Stringer Lawrence Esq

Sir — Fort St George 28 May 1753

This is to inclose Copy of a Letter from Mr Dupleix to Captain Schaub, on which I must observe

I think he might as well have made his Proposal to me which would have been attended with as little Trouble as negotiating by means of Captain Schaub

When Capt Maskelyne was sent on Parole for Mr Lawrence it was refusd, what makes him now to insist

When Captain Schaub and his Company who were not taken in the field but sent contrary to Treaty with

Fort St George May 1753

a regular Passport can be reckond on the same footing as the
others. The Marquis Dupleix says it is unusual to
keep Prisoners at Pondicherry, he has told us we could not do it
yet he does it us Fast though he colours it with as specious
I know nothing of Mr Renaults having been
changd for Mr Maskelyne nor of the Removal of Velore from
Salabat Jungs Dignity. I have heard the contrary and that
the Province on Pondicherry
I mind other Exchanges are mentiond whether
the Nabob will think it for his Interest to let the Prisoners remain
as they are, as such a Number of Officers & Men added to their
present Force will make a considerable Army in those Parts
I must wait to hear from him
If you should succeed in your Negotiations
whether the Nabob could Treat with the Secretaries, though I
doubt it, please to give me your Opinion, may Perhaps be
extremely important from St David. I have ordered Mr Love to be
very particular in advising you of what occurs & Report
private here that the second Subahs visit to Arcot

I am Sir

Your most Obedient Servant
Thomas Saunders

The President also wrote to Captain Scheub to
acquaint the Marquis Dupleix that he (the President) has
no Authority over the Prisoners being only on Parole, as
such he will with Pleasure use his Interest and has wrote
to the Nabob on the Subject

M

Fort St George. May 1753

At a Consultation Present

Thomas Saunders Esq Gov.: Pres.t

Richard Starke Charles Boddam

Henry Bowney Alexander Wynch

Monday John Smith Charles Bourchier

the 28th.

Richard Starke Esq who arrived here yesterday having taken his Seat, the President acquainted the Board that agreeable to the Resolution of Consultation of the 30th March 1752 he had ordered on the Secrets Comm.s Correspondence the communications to the Board the Journal &c. and Letters received & Copying before them such as were sent for their Approbation, but that he found it attended with great Inconveniency and Perplexity which he referred to a Matter requiring their mature Consideration, he observed that the Method in which Affairs have been constantly transacted, that the Private Committee have conducted Things as far as Nature till they were ripe for Execution which was then laid before the Board for their Concurrence and that the present Question was the Place which had been communicated to the Board Mondays and Fridays to meet with Major Lawrence for Approbation as he always when here admits Persons from the Governour & Council, that upon Consequence Mr Starke at Fort St David and Mr Lawrence in Camp had a discretionary Power to act as was judged for the Good of the Service and in regard to Military Operations Mr Lawrence's Opinion is particularly necessary, but as the Scene of Action has been to

the

Fort St George May 17th 1753

The Southward all Letters to and from Mr Lawrence Dalton concerning of that several Occurrences have past through Mr Starke's Hands not only as one of the private Committee but as a Member of the Board. That this Method seem'd to be regular but still he thought it needful an Observance of the following Particulars, that the Board have always been acquainted, their Opinions communicated to Mr Starke and Mr Lawrence whenever he has answered, which then ought to be given, and yet Mr Starke in the 3d Paragraph of the Letter of the 18th Instant seems to insinuate the Board have no share in Management and in another Paragraph intimates that the Committee of three are invested with the Sole Power the President proposed to be settled and if our Honble Masters Orders may in any Respect alter of a nature so as to be viewed it might be reconciled with the greatest Harmony

He further added that as the several Occurrences are communicated to the Absent Members, they should on Receipt mention their Approbation or assign the Reason for their Non concurrence and that upon any Advices they may receive they give their Sentiments and in cases of Emergency when time will not admit they dont act in the Late Case of Chelluvandavoo wait for Orders but act as the Situation of Affairs require which the Board thinks is highly necessary

Our Honble Masters Commands relating to the Committee of three being then called for it was observed that the 33d Paragraph of the General Letter by the Duranger dated 23d August 1751 does seem on the first part of it to grant an Independent Power to the Committee to transact Affairs with the Country Government but the latter part restrains it by

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by laying them under a Necessity of applying to the Council on all Occasions where any of the Company's Troops or Cash are to be disburs'd and very few any Military Operations can be undertaken without it, so that in reality most Cases must on the End come before the Council as is very fully evinced in the late Affair of the Army to Trichinopoly, had the Council refused to Disburse the necessary Money the Army could not have march'd. Where Money is necessary many Advantages may attend a Power to such a Committee to conduct a particular Enterprize or Negotiation, but 'tis evident the Company's Intention in directing such an Application to the Council is that they should adjudge by judge of and assent to or disapprove the Measures proposed which is necessarily implied in the Power of granting or refusing Money, and this is further explain'd in the 75th Paragraph of the same Letter where it is said "When any Military Designs and Operations are under the Consideration of "the Council he (Major Lawrence) is to lay before them such "Plans & Explanations thereof as may enable them to give proper "Orders for the more effectual carrying them into Execution &c. "He is to be governed by such Orders as he has or shall receive in writing from the Court of Directors for the time being "or from You the President & Council &c — and further He is to "communicate to the President & Council whatever may accrue &c

In all which not the least mention is made of the Committee whose supposed Independent Power is thereby totally abrogated the General are given to the President & Council. How to reconcile this seeming Contradiction, the Board having spent some time in deliberation are upon the whole unanimously of Opinion that the most obvious & natural Construction of the above recited

Fort St George May 17.53

Paragraphs is That the Committee of Three or any two of them have a Power to transact such Affairs of Country Government where no Money is to be disbursed though it does not from thence follow that they are obliged to exert that Power to the utmost extent, but on the contrary are at Liberty when they or either of them shall judge proper to bring any Matter whatsoever before the Board with whom the said Power on such Occasion is lodged, and to observe in all Affairs where the Application of Money is necessary except where any such Cases where the Company's Cash is not immediately or consequentially to be disbursed. It is therefore Agreed the Committee of Three or either of them shall have such Power to give the necessary Directions on any such sudden & emergent Occasions as will not allow Time to take the Opinion of the Council, all which Transactions are however to be communicated to the Council as soon as may be afterwards and they are also empowered jointly to carry Measures or separately (as the Case may happen to fall under the immediate Inspection of either of them) to give Directions for the more effectually carrying into Execution any particular Resolution of Council, but that whenever an Alteration is proposed to be made in any particular or General Plan of Operations or any new Expedition intended to be undertaken, the Sanction of the Council shall be first obtained, this however is not to be understood to extend to any such Disposition on the Field as the Motions of the Enemy or any unforeseen Incidents may render immediately necessary in which Case the Commander in Chief of the Forces must always have a Discretionary Power With Respect to the Correspondence with the Comp.ys Servants he is hereby authorized as before to conduct that Branch, the Letters intended

Fort St George May 1753

intended to be sent being previously communicated to the several Members of the Council for their Perusal

The Court being determin'd the President observ'd that there were several other Particulars in Mr Starke's Letter of the 7th & 8th Instant, past regarding the general Manage-ment & part he the President & Conduct in particular that needed some Explicit, he then proceeded to peruse and explain those Paragraphs

* Cont. Cons. 11 Jan. p. 20 — 21. F.

wonded at, and desired as the first Time Mr Starke would explain this Paragraph in his Letter of the 3d inst, "Major Lawrence and I have only meddled in those Particulars that fell under our Inspection" to which Mr Starke reply'd his meaning was that the Siege of Chengalpat and our Search as with Balaxavon had not been communicated to him. The Comp Letter Book being thereupon produced & several Passages read it appeared that Major Lawrence had from time to time been acquainted with what related to that Expedition against Sauder Bander, Changlepat &c and also with such Intelligence as was procurable concerning Balaxavon Though it be but imperfect was however the best Information that could be given him at that Time which having passed through Mr Starke's Hands he had an Opportunity of knowing as much as if it had been particularly addressed to him and on perusal of those Letters he declared his Approbation of the Measures that have been taken. That part of his Letter of the 13th Instant being then read where he speaks of the Difference between the President & Major Lawrence and of Jealousies amongst us, The President declared to the Board that he knew of none, But indeed a Difference of Opinion between the Council & Major Lawrence had formerly arisen

some Disputes and Disgust which on the General Letter by the
Lawrence of the 11th December and his Reply of the 31st of the
same Month appear to be buried in Oblivion, but even if they
were not he did not apprehend that he might justly be
chargeable with any Consequences that might thereon ensue
as these Altercations arose upon the Subject of General
Deliberations of Council and not from his particular Interest
as Mr Starke's Letter implies he therefore desired that for his
Satisfaction and the Satisfaction of the Board Mr Starke
would declare whether he knew of any Cabal other Factions
Set or Difference to which he replyd — "that He has often
"heard the Major complain of being slighted particularly on
"the Instance of being obligd to wait a considerable Time while
"the Nabob's Cabrel was with the President; but at the same
time (Mr Starke) declard that he thought this ought not
to be look'd upon in that Light. He further said — "that He
"has also complained that his Recommendation of Officers was
"not accepted" — on which it was observed that this never happened
but in the case of Mr Pepington whose Promotion was prejudice to
Officers of Superiour Rank would have been directly repugnant
to the Military Regulations and the Company's Orders and Mr
Starke being desird to give his Opinion whether a Recommenda-
tion under such Circumstances should be admitted, declared he
thought it might in cases of particular Merit, but allowed that
it would have been a very great Hardship upon Mr Cooper
and several other Officers who had behaved very well had Mr Pe-
pington been put over them, he further added "that he had
heard the Major say he did not think himself well used when

the

Fort St George May 1733

The Army was encampd at Cuvandupuram on not receiving pos-
itive Orders from the Board after he had declard he could not
act without but being told that such Orders were sent and are
luckily carried into Pondicherry, of which Mr Mayor was informd
in a subsequent Letter & Duplicates of the former are sent him
Mr Starke declard he thought there was no further Cause of
Dispute on that account yet he was of Opinion the Mayor was
dissatisfied & that as mentiond in his Letter the only way to
reconcile all Differences would be to send for him to the Pre-
sidency, but the rest of the Board declard they were of Op-
inion that as the Occasion of our Meeting was on regard to
Mr Starke's Letters which rendered it necessary to put the
Method of carrying on the Companys Affairs upon a good
Footing; That as nothing had lately happend to cause any fresh
Dispute and that as Mayor Lawrence's Name had not been men-
tiond they saw no Necessity for calling him up, for besides that
it may serve to bring again upon the Carpet many things
which seem to be forgotten, his Presence with our Forces is more
necessary at this time, especially when as Treaty is on
foot with the Dalloway and the Safety of Fischenapoly depen-
on the Transactions of the Army, and that they thought it
not well judgd in Mr Starke to introduce the Subject of the
Differences with Mayor Lawrence as it tended rather to foment
than reconciliate them and had no Manner of Connection with
the Point in question to which Mr Starke replyd that it was
the farthest of any thing from his Intentions to promote Discord
and that his sole Motive was to bring about a perfect Harmo-
and Unanimity

The President says before the Board the

County

Fort St George May 1753

Country & Camp Correspondence

Amongst the Country Letters the only one containing any thing news from Visnagee Court was Vakeel to Balazeram, acquainting that he reach'd the Camp the 28th April and waited on that Raxon who receiv'd him kindly and afterwards sent for him into the Private Divan to question him of Affairs in these parts & spoke of the English here and at Bombay in Terms of great Friendship and declar'd that his Intentions were to have come into the Carnateck Country, but his Army being fatigued and the Monsoon approaching oblig'd him to decline it at present however he stedfastly purpos'd coming into these Parts after the Monsoon, that he therefore recommended to the English to continue their Assistance to Mahamed Ally and to be patient a few months longer when he would certainly come & settle every thing.

Major Lawrence writes the President as follows

Sir Camp 15th May 1753

The 12th I advis'd you of my Return from Syringam Island where I intended to have made a longer Stay and I have Reason to believe with Success but the Natives being to take Provisions for his People put it out of my Power I encamp'd on the Plain this Morning to open a Communication with the Country for Provisions must be had at any Rate and I wish this Method may be effectual; 49, 52, 53 (the Nabob) is in 69, 71, 73 (want of Money) and 41, 43, 45 (Inchinopoly) is full of 105, 102, 107 (Distress) no Confidence to be placed in 51, 59, 60 (the King of Tanjore) should 47, 63, 68, 43 (Morari and the French march to Inchinopoly) it is not impossible but 15, 18, 51, 80, 81, 82 (the King of Tanjour may join) and 43, 41, 45 (Inchinopoly) will please the old Lady 45, 16, 43

(the

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Fort St George May 1753

The King of Mysore and all Affairs are now like may think at no great Compliment 105, 106, 113, 118 (Officers, Soldiers Europeans & Topaf, Seapoys) by 67, 68, 69 102, 92 &c (distrest and making an Attempt) is unaccountably reduc'd. I have not heard from you Lately. Mr Starke informs me of what past at Tondy Viz.t Sam Sor Yourmost humble & most Obedient Servant

P Lawrence.

Mr Cooke at Fort St David writes that by Letters from Mr Dawson at Devecotah he is informd Serjeant Haycock (who commanded in Chellumbrum) with his Detachment had deserted that Fort leaving the Pyroudas in Possession of it, the Reason for which Proceeding is not mentiond but it is probable the Defence of the Place appeard impracticable, that the Reinforcement sent to his Assistance from Devecotah had neither joind him nor were returnd and desiring our Directions whether in case nothing further can be undertaken for the Defence of Chellumbrum we would have the Party orderd up to St David or continued at Devecotah

The Board are of Opinion that as there is no immediate Necessity for the Detachment to return to St David, it had better continue for some time at Devecotah, as that Place is but very Lightly Garrisond and they may with great Ease be transported by Sea to St David whenever Occasion may require

* The Marquis Dupleix's Proposal for an Exchange of Prisoners being considerd the Board are of Opinion that as Captain Schraub and his Company were taken contrary to Treaty and ought not therefore to be considerd as Prisoners they cannot be accepted in Exchange for Prisoners taken in the Field by the Nabob in open and Declared War as the consenting to such

* The Council of Dupleix's Letter to Council entered the 28th Inst. herein before

such an Exchange would imply a tacit Acknowledgment that
Mr Dupleix has a right to detain them

As to Captain Maskelyne's Exchange for Captain Lu
cand the Board readily agree that Application be made to
the Nabob on this head if the Marquis Dupleix will consent to
his own Name, but not in the Name of the Phousdar of Vi
cor whom he stiles Salabat Jungs Deputy in this Province
as that would carry with it a Confession of his Supposed Auth
rity and consequently that Mahomed Ally is an Invader

The Board are also of Opinion that an Exchange
of the other Prisoners will at this Time be of greater Advantage
to the Enemy than to us as such an Addition to their present
Strength in the Country about St. David will enable them to
undertake much more than they can otherwise attempt whilst
the Force we shall gain by the Exchange will be insufficient
to face them in the Field, however tis Agreed that no deter
minate Answer be given until Major Lawrence's Opinion be re
ceivd to whome the President has wrote on the Subject

As Major Lawrence mentions the want of Money
for the use of the Army, tis Agreed to make him a Remittance
of eight or ten thousand Pagodas or more by Bills on Tanjore
if they can be procurd

Tho: Saunders.
Tho Boddam
Henry Lowry
Wynch
John Smith.
Bouchier

Fort St. George Jan 1753

At a Consultation Present
Thomas Saunders Esq. Gov. Presid.
Richard Starke, Charles Boddam
Henry Ponney Alexander Wynch
Monday the 4th John Smith Charles Bourchier

The Country and Camp Correspondence being produced & read is to the following Effect viz.

The King of Tanjore writes that the Nabob having acquainted him of his Desire to accommodate Matters with the Mallowar he sent a Person to the latter to learn his Intention & finds that his Inclinations for Peace vary as the Circumstances of his Affairs appear more or less prosperous, whence as well as his fixed Purpose of having Trichenopoly at the Money it has cost him it may be concluded that Matters are not likely to be finished any other way than by fighting it out That his Forces having joind the Nabob has exposed his Country to ruin, wherefore he desires we will assist him with Men & protect his Territories and that an entire Confidence may be reposed in his Promises & Friendship. Inclos Letter to his Vakeel have explained the Danger his Country is exposed to he directs him to represent it properly to the Governour and procure a Letter from him promising his Assistance & Protection to the Tanjore Country and that he will be faithful to his Engagements he also desires that a Gun and a Gold Watch may be sent him.

A Letter from the Vakeel in Salabat Jungs Camp advises that several Presents had been made Mons. Goupier the French Commanding Officer there for Mr. Dupleix and his Family on occasion of confering the Government of the Arcot Country on him but that notwithstanding the Salabat Jungs Affairs

continued

Fort St George June 1753

continue in so unsettled a Condition that no Dependence is to be placid on any thing transacted in his Camp. That Sabdulla was much distressd for Money and it was imagined he would proceed to Aurungabad agreeable to his Duan's Desire but that the French declard against it as a sickly Place where they had lost a hundred Men and proposd Golcondah

Abdul Vahab Cawn encloses a Letter to him from the Killedar of Wondiwash offering to submit to the Nabob and desiring that he will assist him in defending the Fort against the Enemy. Abdul Vahab Cawn therefore requests that a Detachment of Europeans & Sepoys may be sent there to Garrison it

Major Lawrence writes as follows

Sir

I receivd your favours of the 2d. Instant the 12th to which I cannot be particular in my Answer as the Conveyance is so liable to Accidents, a Letter of mine of the 15th having been intercepted by the Caneleforces of the Hircara's carried into Syringam, a Duplicate was dispatchd a day or two after it which I hope will have better fortune.

This morning came inclosd from Mr Starke's Letter for the Nabob & one for the Dalonay, mine was omitted & the Contents were unknown to me I took the Liberty of opening the Letter that we may act in Concert and forwarded it to him with another from myself to the same Purport, whenever I receive an answer you shall be acquainted

The Volunteers I appointed the 13th to do the Duty of Officers till your Pleasure shall be further known, are Rank Jean Baptiste D'Archer, ... Percival, Tho.s Rumbold,

William

Fort St George June 1753

William Rumbold and I must desire that the Vacancies may be fillid up; That inclosid is a Letter from Mr Astruc Commander at Syringam with my Answer

Fruchinopoly 21st May I am Sir

Your most humble and
Obedient Servant
S Lawrence

P.S. 43. 102, 71 66 / Want of Money and distress in Fruchinopoly
We heartily expect to hear what Succefs with 52.53.54.55, 59, 60, 62
Tondaman

Sir

I have received no Answer from the Dalaway, in other Respects we are much in the same Situation as when I writ last I hear that Fort St David Mercands are bestowing on the Nabob I have sent Messengers to hasten them

I am Sir

Your most humble and
Obedient Servant
S. Lawrence.

Fruchinopoly
25th May 1753
To the Honble Thomas Saunders Esq.

The Purport of the Letter from Mr Astruc to the Mayor mentiond in his Letter of the 21st May is to desire his Interest with the Nabob to bring about the Exchange of Prisoners he proposd by order of Mr Dupleix to which the Mayor returnd for Answer that he could not on any Account interfere in the Affair

The President's Letters to Major Lawrence since last Consultation are as follows viz.

To Stringer Lawrence Esq.

Sir

Fort St George 31 May 1753

My last to you was the 23d since which I have received Copy of yours of the 15th but not the Original, I imagine Letter

Fort St George June 1753

Letters may go and come safe as far as Devecotah and that the Interruption happens between that Place and Camp — Suppose you change the Hircaru

Inclosed is a Bill of Exchange on Buckeye People for Pags 10,000, I will get another as soon as possible and hope you will be able to draw on us

From St David I hear Chellumbrum is privately in the Enemy's Hands as Sergeant Haycock with his Command had left it & was gone to Devecotah

A Letter from our Vakeel informs us that Balaroon continued his March from the Province.

Another from Salabat Jung's Camp advises that it was thought the Army would proceed to Aurungabad, Mora Gouped with most of the French were with Salabat Jung, Mess Buby with a few at Metchlepatam, it is said Salabat Jung has given a Sanad for the Arcot Subahship to 38,40,44,45,87 (Mr Dupleix 55,53,51,50,79 (the King of Tanjour) writes he has 83,81,48,49 (join't) I am of Opinion 59,60,61,62 (the English) will not trust to this, and the most they can expect is that he does not 81,83,63,95 (join the French).

It is possible 73,71,84,89 (want of Money) may be accounted for from Tanjour

I hope the Affair wrote you about may succeed 50,51,48,40 (the King of Tanjour) should partake

The French have had a second Ship arrived with about a hundred Recruits

I have not heard from 45,49,55,59 (the Nabob) a considerable Time, it is said 47,59,63,67 (the Enemy) will in a few days 48,68,43,48 (march to Inchenopoly) 97, 87,96 (Mr Starke will in a few days pay a Visit to 98,88,76

Fort St George June 1753

(Fort St David) Sam

Sir Your most Obedient Servant
Tho.s Saunders

To Stringer Lawrence Esq.

Fort St George 1st June 1753

Sir

Your Letter of the 21st ult.o is come to hand also Duplicate of that of the 15th

The Commissions for the Gentlemen you mention have been drawn out a considerable Time I believe it better not to send them, Captain Chase is dead

I have not heard any thing further than what already wrote you concerning the Prisoners

I now enclose Duplicate Bills for Pag.s 10,000, by mistake of the Shroff the Bill sent you last night was only for 2000 Pagodas, in a separate Cover came the three others for the remaining 8000. I have ordered Buckinyas People to write to their Comastahs that whatever Moneys they may pay you for Bills on us, we shall pay here. I am

Sir

Your most Obedient Servant
Tho.s Saunders

Mr Cooke at Fort St David writes that Serjeant Haycock (who commanded the party at Chellumbrum) had quitted that place as mentioned in last Consultation, he now comes in and says in his Justification, that the Phousdar had made Terms with the Enemy for the Delivery of the Place, a chief Article in which was that he should remain in his Phousdarship and all usual Priviledges upon paying a certain Tribute to Nabob Dupleix, further Particulars he knows not but that Matters being thus settled, the Phousdar told him

to

Fort St George June 1753

to hide himself and People, that he should let in the Enemy who were under Agreement to go out again Presently. So this the Serjeant thought it time to quit the Fort which he accordingly did, the Enemy immediately took Possession of it, the Truth of which Relation is in a great measure confirmd by subsequent Accounts that the Phousdar had made great Rejoicings on the Occasion

The President acquaints the Board that he is informd a Party of French & Seapoys with some Horse are ready to take the Field from Pondicherry but that he has not yet learnd their Intention, however as 'tis possible they may be designd against Arcot or Changleput he thinks it necessary to send immediate Intelligence to Captain Pigou at the former and Lieut.t Grenville at the latter Place and Letters are now read directing them to be on their Guard & in case of an Attack to be very cautious of making Sallies to avoid unnecessary Risques, to be frugal of Ammunition and to beware of Treachery by which more Places have been lost than by the Strength of their Assailants

The Subject of the Letters received and the present Posture of Affairs being considerd and debated the Board are of Opinion that from what the King of Tanjour writes it evidently appears there are no other Measures to be pursued with the Dalloway than those already resolvd on; viz.t to bring about an Accommodation by negotiation on the Terms wrote to Majr. Lawrence & Calk the 11th may, or if that cant be effected, to throw a good Store of Provisions into Trichinopoly and that the Army return to St David, but principally to press the Accommodation which seems the more immediately necessary as by the Vakeels Letter from Salabat Jungs Camp

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Fort St George, June 1753

Camp it appears that French Interest still prevails there and the Government of the Arcot Country said to be conferd on Mr Dupleix is a strong Confirmation of it, 'tis therefore to be feard not only that no Assistance can be had from that Quarter but that the Nabob may have a powerful Enemy in Salabat Jung should he heartily come into the French Measures which tis possible the Necessity of Affairs may oblige him to, and though Balazaroo, should he return into this Province after the Monsoon, and espouse the Nabobs Cause as he has promisd to do, would certainly be capable of turning the Scale in his favour, yet no Dependence is to be placd on his Engagement as hitherto it appears his sole View is the Acquisition of Riches, These Circumstances considerd it appears there is not the least probable Prospect of such Assistance from any Quarter as may enable the Nabob to overcome his present Difficulties, so that the whole Burthen of the War is likely to lye on the Company, the heavy Charges of which are already insupportable and to prevent its becoming more so the Board are of Opinion that an Accommodation with the Mallovay is absolutely necessary. With respect to the Killedar of Wandewash, and Abdul Vahab Cawn's Request that a Garison of Europeans may be sent there, the Board are of Opinion that, the dividing our Forces into small Parties to defend the Country Forts will only be hazarding the Men as very few of those Places are capable of resisting a regular Attack whilst by such small Detachments the main Body of our Forces is so much weakend as to give the Enemy great Advantages It is therefore thought most advisable not to comply with the Killedar's Proposal but that Abdul Vahab Cawn be desird to acquaint him that as soon as Affairs will admit he shall

have

have a proper Force for his Protection

As to the King of Tanjaurs Assurances of Friendship & Firmness in the Nabobs Cause the Board are of Opinion Little Confidence can be placid in them for though he has several times in his Letters said that he had joind the Nabob yet the Accounts from Camp contradict it. However it is thought adviseable to amuse him for a time with hopes that when the Recruits we expect from Europe this Season arrive, as many as can be properly spard shall be sent for his Protection, as indeed it is no more than what by Treaty we are oblig'd to do and as a Mark of Friendship 'tis Agreed that a Fowling Piece and a Gold Watch be sent him as a Present

Captain McLacham of the Dragon to whom the King of Tanjay made his Proposals for granting the English a Factory there being on his Return to that Place, 'tis Agreed that a Present be sent by him to the King of a Brass Field Piece and Carriage & that we write to him at the same time to assure him we accept with great Chearfulness the Offer he is pleasd to make us of an exclusive Trade to his Country and would on our Parts readily comply with the Terms but that as this Country has been for a long time and still is involvd in Troubles, we cannot readily procure the Cannon & Ammunition & spare the Men requird, but as soon as Peace is restord to these Parts we shall not fail to fulfill what is Stipulated on our Side, in the mean time we desire he will permit our Colours to be hoisted there. This it is hopd will be a Means of preventing the Dutch, who, it is said, have been endeavouring to get Footing there and indeed every other Nation from succeeding.

The President acquaints the Board that the

King

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King of Tanjour's Vakeel in Conversation with him had mentiond that his Master was very uneasy at the Escape of Hafsan Addy Cawn, alias Shaik Hafsan and intimated that it was imagind it must have been brought about by Corruption. As this is a very great Reflection and serves to depreciate us in the Opinion of the Country People, it is thought necessary that the strictest Scrutiny be made into this Affair and of any Hung of this Sort should be discoverd that the Offenders be punishd in an exemplary manner. The Minutes of a Court of Enquiry held at Fort St David being thereupon perusd the Board are of Opinion that the Serjeants Centinels of the Guard were guilty of great Remissness which leaves too much room to suspect that the Hong of Tanjore's Conjectures is not groundless more especially as the President acquaints the Board he had hyd the Expression of having a man carried out in a Basket which is the Manner Shaik Hafsan is said to have made his Escape and from the Difficulty that attended it / the Person that carried the Basket not being able to take it up himself / is imagind if there had not been a Connivance, the Centry could not but have perceivd it. Mr Starke is therefore desird at his Return to Fort St David to make the strictest Enquiry that if possible the Offenders may be brought to condign Punishment.

The Board having considerd the Advices in the General Letter from Fort St David of the 31st ultimo that a Party of the Enemy were gone towards Verdachelum with Views as it was apprehended against that Place, and having consulted several Officers who have been there in Regard to the Strength and Situation of the Place are of Opinion that the Gentlemen at Fort St David have done Right in ord-

ering

Fort St George June 1753

sending a Reinforcement further, as in the present Condition it is very capable of resisting what Force the Enemy can bring against it, unless they should have heavy Cannon and on that case, as it would probably fall, the throwing in a Reinforcement would be but exposing them, the only thing therefore that can be done is to order the Serjeant Commanding here to defend the Place in case of an Attack to the utmost extremity and if he should find it impossible to maintain it and an Opportunity should offer of escaping with his Detachment to do so but not whilst there remain any hopes of holding out

Tho.s Saunders.

Geo.e Boddam

Henry Lowndes

W.m Lynch

John Smith

G.o Bouchier

Fort St George June 1753

At a Consultation Present

Thomas Saunders Esq. Gov.r Presid.t
Richard Starke, Charles Boddam
Henry Powney Alexander Wynch
John Smith Charles Bourchier

Saturday the 9th

General Letter from Mess.rs Lawrence and Palk read as follows.

To the Honble Thomas Saunders Esq.r
President & Governour &c. Council of Fort St George

Honble Sir & Sirs

We are this day favour'd with your Letter of the 11th Instant, we shall be glad to contribute our utmost Endeavours to forward your Directions, though we dont flatter ourselves with an immediate Success 41, 46, 45 (the Dalloway) shew no Sort of Inclination to 59, 61, 62, 121 (the English & Major Lawrence) so far we imagine of giving Offence to 62, 63, 64 (the French) 53, 49, 40 (the Nabob) altho the Thoughts of 45, 46, 48 on 41, 43, 45 (giving up Tschanapoly to the Dalloway) but conclude still very sanguinely that 53, 54, 51 can do great Things perhaps on very little Foundation, however it is thought proper to wait the Result of this two or three days longer

A Small Step is made at 53, 54, 55, 59 Tondaimon towards removing 102, 103, 104 (Dubash) from 43, 46, 48 (Tschanapoly) which is surrounded by 69, 70, 71 (want of Money.

More Troops are said to be on their March and daily expected, their Arrival will cause a Diversion and make 49, 50, 61, 68, 87, 88 (the Nabob and the English

march

Fort St George June 1753

march to Fort St. David / whose Junction is of very great
Consequence. We are with great Respect
Honble Sir & Sirs

Your very humble & most Obedt Servts
S. Lawrence
Robt Palk

Trichenopoly
26th May 1753

Camp Correspondence read,

Major Lawrence writes the President as
follows

Sir Your Letters of the 5, 9, 11 & 15 came in
yesterday with another from the Governour & Council which
was answer'd last Night

I am glad Chingleput & Arcot are so
well provided. I have already explain'd to you the Nabob's
Situation so far as I am able to judge, and all that you
have recommended he shall be acquainted with, he shew'd me
a long Letter which he declines sending on account of the
Precariousness of the Conveyance

I am afraid no Regard will be paid to
the Injunctions of 143, 144, 145 / Balaxarow / the Dalonay
I am told looks on him as a Friend, so does 53, 52, 51
/ the King of Tanjour / his Scheme seems to be that which
will tend most to his own Interest

I agree that Expedition is highly necessary
& nothing shall be wanting on my part but 53, 54, 55 / Sonda
man / is very dilatory, though I have taken every Measure
to hasten his March

The Arrival of Recruits is a lucky In
cident, could those expected be Landed at Fort St. David, it
would be more convenient, the Extract mentioned in your

of

of the 11th came not inclos'd.

By Monages being restor'd to his Command I am in hopes the Politicks in the Tanjore Court have taken a better Turn, 61, 69, 65 (the English) does not confide in 51, 52, 53 (the King of Tanjore) no otherwise than as it serves his own purposes 41, 46, 45 (the King of Mysore) does not converse with 121, 111, 131 (Major Lawrence) which disappoints the Intention of the 11th, the main point with 49, 61, 62 (the English at present is to remove 102, 40, 104 (Distress) from his Alliance with 43, 38, 41 (Trichenopoly, when this is done we shall gain time for the rest.

The Company have made an extraordinary good Choice in Colonel Scott for he is allow'd to be a Man of great Merit, & Worth. If I should be out of the way at his Landing; I beg the favour of you to make him my Compliments. I am Sir Your most obedient humble Servant

Trichenopoly 27th May 1753.

To the Honble Thomas Saunders Esq

S. Lawrence

Mr Cooke at Fort St David advises that the Party of the Enemy who was imagin'd were intended for Verdachellum came back again and after being joyn'd by a Additional Force of Horse and Foot & six or seven Guns are return'd there. He also advises that another Detachment of the Enemy are march'd from Pondicherry to Belpore where 'tis said they wait to be joyn'd by Shaik Hussein & Morarec and by all the Intelligence he can collect, which he thinks may be credited, it seems pretty certain that they intend to direct their March towards Arcot.

Captain Pigou at Arcot writes that the Glacis which was begun some time ago is now totally at a Stand and in its present Condition should the Enemy besiege the

Fort St George June 1753

place, great Part of it would entirely cover them from the Fire of the Fort and many Houses are yet remaining without reach Shott of the Walls, that he had represented this to the Nabob who very frankly reply'd he had not Money to procure but at the same time said he was going to send a Force of his Sons to Tryjoty to recover that Country from Morarow Camaul who took Possession of it about six Weeks ago and if they succeeded he then should have a sufficient supply he adds that in regard to Provisions, the principal Articles are laid in, and the whole will be compleated in a few days

Lieutenant Greenville at Changlepet writes that he has at last prevaild with the Nabob's Amuldar to lay in a Quantity of Paddy, fourteen hundred Marcals have already been brought in and he is in Expectation of double that Quantity in a few days, that the Glacis will be finish'd in about ten days, the whole Length of which is upwards of two hundred & twenty Yards

Since last Consultation the President wrote Major Lawrence as follows viz

To Stringer Lawrence Esq^r

Fort St George 5^th June 1753

Sir

I have receivd your Letter of the 25^th

At Chellumbrum and Trividy are in the hands of the Enemy and possibly Verdachalum may be at the same time the Rivers may probably be swell'd with the Rains, I am apprehensive these several Circumstances will render it difficult, may I may say impossible to send any Stores.

Hyder Addy Cawn with Europeans, Sepoys

and

Fort St George June 1753

Horse provided with a Train, some Mortars, Shells and Ammunition
is encamp'd out of Pondicherry I have desired Mr Cooke to inform
you of the Motions he may make

4.8.7.33.34.35 (Arcot & Changlepat) enjoy a good
State of Health, though the excessive heat & Sickliness of the Sea
son may probably affect them, 62.63.64.66 (the French) rec
vers surprizingly and is strong & well

48.50.51.53.54 (the King of Tanjour) wants but
he has 60.61.62.79.80.81.82 (joins the English) and say they
are all one, you know my Sentiments

The Reason that 59.60.61.62.79 (the English)
does not hear from 45.46.48.50 (the Dutch) is I imagine
because the Letter went to 34.44.25.64 (Dupleix) who I am
persuaded and I believe you think soon

My next I hope will advise you of the Arrival
of two or three more European Ships I am

Sir Your most Obedient Servant
Thomas Saunders.

A Mr Cookes Advices are pretty positive that
the Detachment from Pondicherry are designd against Arcot
Resolved that a Reinforcement of fifteen Europeans be sent
there and that Captain Pigou be directed to call in all the two
Parties of Men from Timmery, Mustepauk, Covepauk &c in case
the Enemy should direct their March towards Arcot

The Charge of Changlepat being of Consequence
Ordered that Captain William Lin (lately arrivd from Eng-
land) proceed there as soon as some necessary Stores now pre-
paring can be got ready and take upon him the Command
of the Garrison in the room of Lieutenant Grenville

The President acquaints the Board that [illegible]

Agents

Fort St George June 1753

Venceta Row the King of Mysores Vackeel has lately requested an Audience, and as Powers & Instructions have been given to Messrs Lawrence and Palk to mediate between the Nabob & Dalaway he (the President) desires the Sentiments of the Board whether it would be proper to enter into any Negotiation here with the Vakeel in case he should have such Instructions, in respect to which the Board are of Opinion that it would be proper to admit him to an Audience, and to advise Messrs Lawrence and Palk of what Overtures he may make but that no Offers be made on our Part for the Nabob or any Terms accepted untill an Answer be receivd from Trichinopoly in the mean time as Messrs Lawrence & Palk in their General Letter of the 26th Ultimo say the Nabob is averse to delivering up Trichinopoly to the Dalloway, it is thought proper to write them presumpty to bring the Nabob to the Point, and insist on his declaring in what other Manner he proposes to maintain the War without throwing the whole Burthen on the Company who are already a very large Sum in advance.

The President also acquaints the Board that he had caus'd one Manoel Lopez de Cunha, a Portuguese Inhabitant of St Thome to be seiz'd on an Information that he carried on a secret Correspondence with Pondicherry, and that Sundry Papers were found in his House wrote in Cypher and several Letters signd by Mr Dupleix and though the Letter contain nothing material yet tis imagind the other may the Secretary is therefore directed to endeavour to get them deciphered and Resolv'd the said Manoel Lopez de Cunha

be

Fort St George June 1753

be confind under a proper Guard until he can clear himself of the Charge against him, or until further Orders

Tho: Saunders

Chas Boddam

Henry Lowndes

P Wynch

John Smith

C. Bourchier

1st Pursuant to Resolution of last Consultation the 4th Instant a General Letter to the King of Tanjay having been prepard is now signd and is as follows.

To the King of Tanjay

We have receivd your Majesty's Letter by Captain McEachern who has deliverd to us also a Contract which your Majesty has been pleasd to make with him in behalf of the English wherein you are pleasd to grant to them a Factory and the free Liberty of Trade in your Dominions exclusive of all other European Nations free of all Customs & several other Privileges therein specifyed, truly sensible of the sincere Regard and Friendship you are pleasd to express for us, We accept the said Contract, will settle a Factory at your Place & carry on a Trade that will prove beneficial to your Subjects as

Fort St George June 1763

the same Manner as We do with the King of Soga who we have
is in perfect Friendship with you, in the Contract we made
now Cannon Shot Powder &c. These Articles are not
diately to be got, we will procure them as fast as we can
your Majesty must no doubt be informd that this Country is
round by War and Rebellion, this prevents us from sending
ver any Men at present but when our Affairs admit we
will readily do it. The four Elephants for the you sent were
received as a Mark of your Regard and we desire you will
accept of a fine Brass Gun and Carriage which we now
send by Captain McEacharn & desire that you will always
Look upon the English and your own People as one and that
there be no Difference between us. Write us constantly of
your Health and wherein we can be of Service to you, may
the Almighty grant you long Life and Happiness, what can
we say more? Thomas Saunders — Charles Boddam
Henry Powney — Alex.r Wynch — John Smith
Charles Bourchier

Fort St George June 12th 1763

At a Consultation Present
Thomas Saunders Esq.r Gov.r Pres.t
Charles Boddam Henry Powney
Alexander Wynch John Smith
Charles Bourchier

The President having since last Consult.n
been received Letters from the Nabob & Mysore Dalawa

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Fort St George Jun

communicated the same to the Gentlemen of Con
his Answers both which are now again read and are
lowing Effect

The Nabobs Letters are in his usua
full of hopes without proposing any reasonable me
Manning the Accomplishment of them, he seems muc
on Balazarow's Friendship and the King of Tanjore
sistance, and though he acknowledges the French are his
bitter Enemies yet he thinks himself secure whilst the Englis
are his Protectors, As to Tuchunapoly he says it is in such
Estimation at Court and also Places that the Preservation
of it will support his Interest as on the contrary the Loss
of it will reduce him to great Distress and even if it were
granted to the King of Mysore 'tis a question whether he is
to be rely'd on, That the Boundar of Velour does not save
him a formidable Enemy, That the Reason his Orders are
the Amildars have not been complyed with is that the
Troubles in the Country have prevented it, That he has
wrote to Abdul Cabul Cawn about Moving the Sorts with
Grain, and endeavours to recover Kerondy Cawn's deceiving
Captain Dalton in respect to the Quantity of Provisions
in Tuchunapoly

In reply to which the President wrote
him that when he last represented to him the Situation
of his Affairs it was with a View that he might propose some
Means of supporting them, but the whole Purport of his
Letter is only that the Enemy must be destroyed, whereas
out of pure Friendship he thinks it necessary to recapitulate
the Circumstances of his Affairs which are that the French still
preserve their Interest with Salabat Jung — that Gazuddy Cawn is

Fort St George June 1753

no more — Balaziarow returnd to his own Country, and all
Hopes of Assistance from them vanishd — In the Great and
Trichenopaly Provinces scarcely a Polygar appears for us
ours — The Forts are in a ruinous Condition and unprovided
with Provisions — The Enemy are growing more powerful
and nothing can be undertaken against them without which
that is not to be expected the King of Tanjore will ever
any League of ruining his own Country, that our Armies can
not be supported without Money and Forts without Provi-
sions must fall all which is recommended to his serious
Consideration as well as the Necessity of concerting some
Measures to surmount these Difficulties, a great Step to-
wards which would be to draw off the Mysore King & his
forces from the French

The Dallaways Letter contains a Repetition
of what he has already urgd in regard to his Right and
Pretensions to Trichenopoly which he will insist upon as the
Money he has expended on the Nabobs Account. As to a Re-
conciliation with him he says his Conscience will not permit
him to do it as he is faithless and not to be depended upon; it
that he is ready to take the most solemn Oath that Morarow
is not in his Pay. That he depended on the Nabobs Performance
and of his Agreement as the President wrote him he would
be ready to execute the Nabobs reasonable Agreement and
complains of the Detention of Vencatrow

The President in answer says that he never
wrote any such Letter, that Vencatrow is at Liberty, that the
Measures He (the Dalaway) is pursuing are destructive both
to himself and the Nabob and are not likely to gain him

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Fort St George Sunr

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coming Effect

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and nothing can be undertaken against them without Money
that is not to be expected the King of Tanjore will not
any Request of ruining his own Country, that our Armies
not be supported without Money and Forts without Provi-
sions must fall all which is recommended to his Serious
Consideration as well as the Necessity of concerting some
Measures to surmount these Difficulties, a great Step to-
wards which would be to draw off the Mysore King & Mo-
rarao from the French

The Dallaways Letter contains a Repetition
of what he has already urgd in regard to his Right and
Pretensions to Trichenopoly which he still insists upon as he
Money he has expended on the Nabobs Account, Adds as he
conciliation with him he says his Conscience will not permit
him to do it as he is faithless and not to be depended upon
that he is ready to take the most solemn Oath that Morarao
is not in his Pay. That he depended on the Nabobs Perfor-
mance of his Agreement, as the President wrote him he would
be ready to execute the Nabobs reasonable Agreement and
complains of the Detention of Vencatrow

The President in answer says that he never
made any such Letter, that Vencatrow is at Liberty, that the
Measures He (the Dalaway) is pursuing are destructive both
to himself and the Nabob and are not likely to gain him

Fort St George June 1753

his Ends as those who now pretend to be his Friends would in case of the Nabobs ruin seize the Fort for themselves, recommending a Reconciliation and offering his Service to bring it about

The President at the same time wrote to the King of Tanjour that though he says his Troops have joined the Nabob's, Major Lawrence advises that they are still at a Distance, desiring he will order them to leave and assuring him that in Consequence of our Alliance he may depend on our Friendship & Protection, that any Money he may direct his Troops to furnish Major Lawrence with, shall be repaid here at Sight and desiring his Acceptance of a Gold Watch, a Silver mounted Gun and Spying Glass

The Camp Correspondence read

Three Letters from Major Lawrence received since last Consultation are as follows

Sir,

The inclosed came this Morning from Tyringam which I took the Liberty to open in hopes of finding somthing that might forward our Affairs; I had another by the same Conveyance and to the same Purport, the Sum of my Money the Nabob has promised his (as I shall do more to morrow) desiring that a Trusty Person may be sent to him I cannot be more particular as the Cypher is not in Camp but we are exactly in the same Situation with my last, some of the Tanjour Horse, I can't say their Number, are within fifteen Miles of us and promise to join tomorrow

Camp 1st June 1753

Sir

Your very humble & Obedient Servt

To the Honble Thomas Saunders Esqr

S Lawrence

Fort St George June ye 3 1753

Sir

Captain Charles Campbell who is on Command at Mallavelly in Tondamans Country, fifteen Miles from hence arrivd here yesterday that some St David Horsemen with a Corps of Sepoys that Place on the Morning but as they are not arrivd the Letters must have been intercepted and carried to Arrigadu; a very great Disappointment, your last me of the 15th & Mr Starkes of the 20th of May, I have none of a later Date

I can give you no other Account of our Affairs than what you will find in my Letter of the 27th 54, 59, 62 (Tondaman) has hitherto sent nothing but Excuses as though Captain Campbell wrote me that his have now 81, 91, 93 (joind) but nothing is done to relieve 102 112 115, 33, 43, 53 and I am very apprehensive of 61, 71, 81 (the want of Money I have represented all this to the King of Tanjore, and am in Expectation of his Answer, I have writ to the Raja but he is not very expeditious in returning the Compliment. We have yet done nothing in the Affair of the 11th (meaning the Treaty proposd in the General Letter dated 11th May) that promises Success I shall be glad of your Directions how to proceed for it is impossible to tell when 102, 112, 115, 67, 68, 69 (Letters may be removd from 33, 43, 53 (Trichenopoly — I am

Sir

Your most humble & most Obedt Servant

J Lawrence

Trichenopoly
3d June 1753.
The Honble Thomas Saunders Esq

Sir When Mr Astruc applyd to the Nabob for an Exchange of Prisoners his Answer was that he expected to be

pass

Fort St George June 1753

paid the great Expence he had been at in subsisting those of the French before he could consent to such a Proposal and I find that he still continues in the same Sentiments, besides he has other Reasons against making the Exchange at this Time. Two Deserters from Syrengam who came out in the last Ships gave very different Accounts of their Number of Recruits from those you have received, they deduct above the half & say that three of the Cape Ships were touched to the Islands with Artificers, Women, Children &c. to repeople Mauritius

In answer to your last Paragraph of N° 21, which came in this Morning nothing is yet done nor likely to be done, though we have left no probable Method untryed.

This Evening I had an answer from the Rajah to my Letter of the 2d full as long and to the same purport as that inclosed to you the 5th Instant, to that part of mine wherein I desired him to send me a sensible Brahmeny fully instructed with his real Intentions he says "I have sent no "real sensible Vakeels to go to you but they excuse themselves "as they could expect no better Treatment than Cencata Row "and Lavagary Puntala.

As to other Affairs the Duplicate annexed are I conceive unnecessary to enlarge on them, I have sent to Tanjour for an Additional Force to dislodge 21, 41, 71 (want of Money from Ct. 91, 111 (the English) about five hundred Horse are joined, more are to follow when the Moratas remove from Chellumbrum. I am Sir Your most Obedient humble Servt

Trichinopoly
6 June 1753
To the Honble Thomas Saunders Esq

J. Lawrence

The President wrote to Mayor Lawrence

Fort St George June 1753

since last Consultation as follows

To Stringer Lawrence Esq.

Fort St George 15th June 1753.

Sir

Since I wrote you the 3d Instant I have received yours of the 27th Ultimo the 1st & 3d Instant and the joint one of the 29th Ult.o I am sorry you have received only mine of the 15th since which I have wrote you the 22d 28th & the 1st & 3d Instant. In that of the 31st mind ordered Bills for Pags ten thousand and I am now so Lucky as to have got Bills for 10,000 more which are under this Cover, I have wrote the King of Tanjour that whatever Sums his Shroffs pay you, I will on Sight of your Bills pay the amount

I have received a Letter from 40, 41, 45, 46, 48 (the Mysore Dalloway) the Contents nothing but the old Story I send for his Vakeel who tells me his Master has a sincere Friendship for the 11th (the Treaty mentiond in the General Letter 11th May) not an Inch of him but what his regards and such is his regard that he would if the Padres impound him a Penance of six Months, undergo it to see him

It appears to me that the Difficulty lyes on 40, 41 45, 49, 50 (the Nabob) I think if he is not inclind to this he should point out how 70, 71, 72 (Want of Money) is to be destroyed, if he is puzzled Imagine he will pursue 23, 24, 25, 26, 72 (Treachery) which is his old Game, therefore Circumspection is necessary and a reasonable Explanation how 70, 71, 72 (Want of Money) is to be treated, should be demanded.

I have received two Letters from 45, 49, 50, 59, 62, 72 (the Nabob) wrote on the Eastern Side, it flows easy and has an Air of Importance but is trifling & nothing to the

Purpose

208

Fort St George June 1753

Purpose, he plays an inestimable Value in the Friendship of 38 to 43 45 87 84 (Trichenopoly) and yet in the Strongest Terms acknowledges 100, 103, 104, 106 Dubois and Want of Force) if we will not the latter in a short time) rob him of the Friendship of the former, viz. — (till — been thus and on your Letter explain it to him.

I think 100, 102, 104 108, 109 (Dubois) deserves your Serious Attention, I suppose you have Advices from St David, Morarow is said to be moving to the Southward on the Enemy towards Arcot

This morning I have heard of Vadachelum surrendering. Mr Starke return'd to St David the 10th in the morning

Inclos'd are Copies of Letters to the King of Tanjore, the King of Mysore and the Nabob

I hope you will soon have finish'd Affairs

Sam Sir

Your most Obedient Servant

Thomas Saunders

The following General Letter has also been wrote to Messrs Lawrence & Palk

To Stringer Lawrence Esq[r]
Mr Robert Palk

Fort St George 14th June 1753

Gentlemen

We have receiv'd your Letter of the 20th the Value of 41, 46, 45 (the Dalloway) expresses a thorough Satisfaction to every Article of the 11 (Vide General Letter 15th May) 53, 49, 50 (the Nabob) We believe has not any Regard or Friendship to him but did not he introduce 53, 51 (the King of Tanjore) into this Affair, he probably may not like the Interest 61, 62, 64, 65 (the English) may have in it, but upon serious Consideration we hope will alter his Opinion, for what else can he propose to gratify 70, 71, 72, 100, 102, 104

Fort St George June 1753

(want of Money and Distress) you will be the best Judges of
53, 52, 51 (the King of Tanjour) his promises largely but
believe 61, 62, 64, 65 (the English) must have great Confidence
in him. We shall be glad to hear 102, 103, 104
(Distress) is compleat and hope by this time 69, 70, 71 (want
of Money) will be satisfy'd.

We are

Fort St George
12th June 1753

Gentlemen Your most Obedient Servants
Thomas Saunders
Charles Boddam
Henry Powney
Alexander Wynch
John Smith
Charles Bourchier

The several Papers which were lately read be-
longing to one Manoel Lopez da Cunha as mentioned in last
Consultation having been examin'd, the Purport of them is nar-
tain'd before the Board and although they do not contain any
thing amounting to a Proof of a Criminal Correspondence with the
French, yet as the President informs the Board he is well assured
that Letters have been sent from him at Pondicherry giving an
Account of the Force recently here from Europe, It is resolv'd that
the suffering such disaffected Persons to reside in the Compy's
Bounds may be of dangerous Consequences and therefore that
he be sent on board a Portuguese Ship now lying in the
Road bound to Macao, in which the Board unanimously
concur.

The President acquaints the Board that
although he has long been possessed of several Orders from the
Nabob on the Amildars of the Adjacent Countries for the pay
of five Lacks of Rupees on account of the Nabob's Debt to

Fort St George. June 1753

yet he has not been able to receive any part of it from them as they constantly made the Payment under Evidence that the unsettled State of the Province prevents their collecting the Revenue and though it is very evident that the Troubles in the Countries must be a very great Hindrance, yet it is not less certain that they have receivd considerable Sums and may probably have after pretend in their Justification that they have applyd them towards the Discharge of the Company's Debt, therefore to guard against any thing of this kind as well as to leave no means untryd of recovering as much as possible of what the Company is in Advance, the President moves that a Committee of the Board be appointed to examine into this Affair and for the Purpose to send for the Nabob's Agents and to enquire of them whether any & what Sums have been paid on account of the Nabob's Debt to the Company & to produce proper Vouchers for the same, to insist on knowing the Reason why the Nabob's Orders have not been duly complyd with & require a more punctual Observance of them. The Board having considerd the motion approve thereof and Messrs Charles Boddam, Henry Powney & Alexander Wynch are appointed. The Committee for transacting this Affair and the several Papers relating to it are now delivered to them.

Tho. Saunders.
Chas Boddam
Henry Powney
Alex. Wynch
John Smith
G. Bourchier

Fort St George June 1753

At a Consultation Present

Thomas Saunders Esq Gov. Presid.
Charles Boddam Henry Powney
Alexander Wynch John Smith
Charles Bourchier

Monday the 25th.

The President lays before the Board the Camp Correspondence amongst which are the following Letters read from Major Lawrence and Mr Palk since last Consultation

Sir

Inclos'd are Copies of Letters to the King of Tanjour with his answer to one of mine. That of this days Date is in very Strong & plain Terms and will therefore I hope have a proper Effect, I shall impatiently expect a Satisfactory Answer

Mr Palk has represented to me the hight Charges which Mr Wynch's Contract labours under and desir'd that he might be suffer'd to pay the Military their full Batta and the Contractor to stand to all other Expences which was very high, as I could not agree to this Proposal & as Allowances have been always made on the like Occasions I have desir'd him to pay the Renard's Disbursements out of the Military Chest plac-ing it to the Honble Company's Account and to continue to do the same 'till your Pleasure shall be known. Want of Money is a sad Article. I must beg your Assistance for I find the Method we have taken will not be sufficient

A proper Person being wanted to do the Duty of Quarter Master, I have desir'd Lieut Monro to supply

Mr

Fort St George June 1753

the Place for the present, I have done this to encourage a young Officer who has really behavid well on every Occasion & is therefore deserving of your Countenance

I send you a Duplicate of my yesterdays Letter and I am Sir

Your most Obedient humble Ser

P. Lawrence

Tschenopoly
7th June 1753
The Honble Thomas Saunders Esq

N.B.

The Purport of the Letters mentiond to be enclosd in the foregoing is as follows viz those from the Major to the King of Tanjour are very professingly to desire he will order his Troops to join agreable to his Promise and also to assist the Nabob with Provisions for Tschenopoly without which it will be impossible to maintain that Fort and consequently it must fall into the Malloways Hands and as among them that as soon as a sufficient Force is land into that place the Army will on case the Country should be in Danger march for its protection & the attack the Dalaway as shall be thought best To which the King of Tanjour in answer says that we may depend he will comply with whatever be proposd in regard to Forces & that he has ord'd his People to send whatever Provisions they can spare

Honourable Sir

Inclosd I send you Duplicate of Major Lawrence's last Letter, he receivd yours of the 22d of last Month yesterday morning & went immediately to Camp to watch the Motions of the Enemy who were discoverd at their encamping on this Side the River about four Miles West

Fort St George June 1753

of the Fort in a strong Situation surrounded by Paddy Fields

Captain Donald Campbell returnd at noon from reconnoitring them but I know not what Accounts he brings or whether the Major intends to attack their Camp which he certainly will do if he finds it practicable & not otherwise as it may interfere with what is principally to be regarded the getting in Provisions.

Nothing more can be done at present to forward the Governours & Councils Directions, no sort of Inclination is shewn towards an Accommodation, and very little indeed is done at 54, 64, 74 It is reported that Monagee is coming to join us from Trincatapilly, but this I can scarce believe while the Morattas are in the Neighbourhood of the Northern Parts of the Tanjour Dominions I am with the greatest Respect

Hon^ble Sir Your most Obedient humble Serv^t
Robert Palk

Trichenopoly
10th June 1753.

To the Hon^ble Thomas Saunders Esq^r

Hon^ble Sir

The Major being still in Camp I take the Liberty to inclose a Duplicate of my last, The French & Mysoreans are now entrenched on this Side the River they have no Intentions 72, 82, 92, 46, 63, 73 / to make an Attempt / though another Party of thirty Europeans, as many Topasses & one Officer came from the Northward to Seringam this Evening Instead of sending away 102, 103, 106 Dispatch / from 43, 45, 48 / Trichenopoly / a greater Addition is made and unless other Accounts besides that first of your Letter of the 11th could be brought about

Fort St George June 1753

about, it is imagin'd that we shall be more embarrass'd as it may be so full of Consequence. 49, 59, 69, 121, 131 (the Nabob & Ma will be determin'd by 21, 41, 51 / the King of Tanjaur / the Nab and the Mayor impatiently expect an Answer from the Kin of Tanjour he can do great Things if he pleases or 41, 43, 50 48, 68, 46 / Trichenopoly will fall to the King of Mysore / in that case we must pursue attentively your Interest of the 11th will not that I imagine a proper Regard will be paid to They hold too close a Correspondence with 102, 71, 43 / Dilby and Want of Money in Trichenopoly / Smith 62, 73, 89 / the French) was at a greater Distance. I am with great Respect

Hon^ble Sir

Your most Obed^t humble Servant
Robert Palk

Trichenopoly
12th June 1753

To the Hon^ble Thomas Saunders Esq^r

Sir Mr Palk writ the two last Letters at my Desire inclosed comes a Duplicate of yesterdays. I was this morning favoured with both yours of 31st May and 1st June, the Mistake of mine of the 15th was owing to the Writers Stupidity, I shall be very cautious of the Conveyance. The Supply of C was very seasonable Relief, the Marquis of Duplex writes the Velour Poundar is Created Nabob in the room Province, I have heard that Money will purchase the Title a any time

I am very well afraid that 59, 60, 61, 69 / the Nabob and the English / will not greatly confide in 55, 53 51, 50, 79 / the King of Tanjour / in spite of 80, 81, 82 / the Invasion / but yet in the present Circumstances it is their Int to solicit strongly as their Views cannot easily be accomplish without his Assistance, my late Letters will convince you the

Fort St George June 1753

the Affair wrote me about cannot succeed at present 26, 46, 66
76 (the King of Mysore) expects 102, 103, 104, 105, 869, 70, 71,
(distrest & want of Money) are making long Marches to Trichi-
poly, I shall endeavour to intercept them & then only 105, 108
115, 118 in 33, 43, 53, 59, 60 (Majors in Tschanapoly) then
if all Incumbrances may make a long Stand, but the Fate
depends entirely on 55, 64, 53, 52, 51 (Sondaman & the King
of Tanjour) and 63, 47, 48, 68, 5, 3, 1 (the French & Morari
marching Northward).

Your acquainting me with the Names of
Time when Officers are appointed will be sufficient, I can
give them out in Orders, you know that Marten Manson, Jo-
seph Clack & Young Polier make three Vacancies and I hope
you will think of filling up the Vacant Companies.

I have appointed Mr Kirk, the Eldest
Lieutenant of the Bengal Detachment to do the Duty of
Captain till the Governors Council's Pleasure shall be known
his Behaviour merits Encouragement

32, 33, 35, 35 (Changlepat) requires your
greatest Attention on many accounts, more especially 63, 89
113 (the French Officers)

In two Letters I desired a Gold Watch might
be sent to Tanjour, I now repeat my Request for I am told
it is expected. I am

Sir

Your most Obedient humble Servant

Stringer Lawrence

Trichenopoly
13th June 1753
To the Honble Thomas Saunders Esq

Captain Dalton writes that his Company
of Sepoys (late Capts) are grown very uneasy for their Pay,
months being due to them, besides two Months Batta an

Fort St George. June 1753.

make them complain the more as not only the Scarcity of Provis
but seeing the Shipping with the Mayor have regularly paid and
plainly say they expect to be paid by the Company and not
the Nabob, that they will serve nobody but the English and
unless their Case is considered they will go with the Army to
St David, for the before diverse that some Money may be rais
ed here to satisfy them as they are absolutely necessary for
the Defence of the Place and that some means may be thought
of to enable him to defray the Hospital and other Charges of
the Fort after the Mayor and Nabob are gone

The following is what the President wrote
the Mayor since Last Consultation

To Stringer Lawrence Esq[r] Fort St George 21 June 1753

Sir

My last was the 15[th] Since yours of the 6[th]
y[t] to reply to — Mr Cooke writes me the Company has
drawn several Bills on St David, and we have sent you four
hence Bills for Rup[s] 20000 which I hope will prove Sufficient
Mons[r] Dupleix has wrote me nothing con-
cerning Prisoners, Only two Ships are yet arrived at Pondicher
y no more than three here

I have already advised you what was said
to me concerning the 11[th] & 12[th] Inclosed I send 11[th] May, since
which the Tackal of 41 46, 49, 50, 62 the Nabob has been
with me, he talks of things at a great Distance but nothing to
the Purpose, but chiefly relies on 33, 34, 31, 51, 53 55 the Kings
Sanpar, and prizes the Value of 22, 23, 26, 41, 43, 45 Inclos
ed) at an unreasonable Rate, he would be content with the
other so that I have not to add to what I have already wrote

Fort St George June 1753

you which is still my Opinion

The last Account of the Enemy is that they are
at Pondachilum which Place they are demolishing

Sir Rice Supposes will have wrote for
Rivers, you will be the best Judge what Service a Detach-
ment may be to the Enemy or the Nabob in regard to your
Communications and other Circumstances, as they are on the
Side the River they cannot Hurt so much annoy you. Should
100, 102, 104, 106 Dishes should be dispatched as soon as possible
and the other recruits entirely or 41. 69. 50. 46. 62 of the Nabobs
on which I have before said the necessary

Parkins Vocation is very well satisfy'd here
and Silgary Punt at St David

I am glad to hear 500 Horse have joined
you, 1500 more would be much better, I hope in my next to
hear of them. I am

Sir

Your most Obedient Servant

Thomas Saunders

P.S. I approve of Mr Monroe acting as Quartermaster

Enclosed is a Letter from the President to
Pondamar is also read desiring he will endeavour to exert him-
self in obliging the Nabob with Provisions &c. Expeditely

Mr Cooke at Fort St David writes that he
is informed the Enemy have demolished the outward Walls and
Bastions of Tiwedy Fort and that nothing now remains but the
Pagoda and an inner Compound Wall very slight, that all the
Cannon are carried away and only forty Sepoys are left in
the Pagoda, that their Encampment at Pondamarum is also
nearly

Fort St George. June 1753

utterly destroyed and they have begun to Mine with the
Fort at Verdachalum where Morare and a Body of Troops
are assembled. That he has also Intelligence of a Party
of the Enemy consisting of three hundred Horse two hundred
Foot Some European Gunners with seven Guns and an Of-
cer being near Sadrass & that he imagines they may be re-
tended against Changleput

The Council pursuant to Resolution of Consulta-
tion the 9th Instant having wrote to Captain Pigot at Arcot
that in case the Enemy should send their Horse that way, it
would be advisable to call in the Detachments from Som-
mery, Madepauk &c, a Letter from Captain Pigot is now rea
in which is the following Paragraph "Sommery & Madepauk
"are as defensible as this place, Madepauk I am endeavouring
"to visit and the Enemy one men before they can possibly attempt
"it, and the Natives say should those Garrisons be withdrawn
"his People will be greatly discouraged, therefore shall be glad
"of your further Advice on that Subject for should the Enemy
"attack those Places first I could not afford them from hence
"and it probable they might succeed, as there are but a few
"Men in each Fort, and should they lay Siege to a Fort
"it will also be impossible for their Detachments to come here

Captain William Lee at Changleput writes
that having carefully viewed the Situation of that Place &
examined the Works he is of Opinion that several Alterations
and Amendments (which he enumerates and explains) are
be absolutely necessary to render the Fort tenable, and that
the Expence attending it will be very moderate. That until
these can be executed he desires a Reinforcement of one

Fort St George June 1753

Company of Seapoys with which Addition to her Strength she doubts not but she shall be able not only to defend the Place against any Force that may probably be brought against it but even to prevent it's being besieged by placing proper Guards at the only three Avenues through which the Enemy can possibly bring any Cannon.

In regard to what Captain Pigou observes in relation to the Defence of Anjengo & several other Out Forts the Board are of Opinion that Covrepaick, Muttapauk & Tevenapatam are certainly of Consequence as they will always contribute much to keep the Communication open with Anjengo and therefore should be preserved if it can be done consistently with the Safety of that Place but not otherwise The Governor is therefore desired to acquaint Captn Pigou that he is on no Account to weaken his Garrison more as to expose them to the least Hazard, the Safety of which Place is to be his chief Care; at the same time if he thinks his Strength can enable him to protect the other Forts, it will be an acceptable Service

And as to the Alterations and Repairs proposed by Captain Lisle to be made at Tanglepett, the Board are of Opinion that as they are represented to be necessary for the preservation of the Place and not expensive it will be proper they should be set about immediately, the Charges whereof are to be carried to the Debit of the Nabob's Account; and that the Garrison there be reinforced by a Company of

Fort St George June 1733

of Seapoys with an European Corporal and six Matrosses

The Committee appointed the 12th Instant to
enquire into the Reasons why the Nabobs Orders on his Minis-
ters for Payment of five Lacks of Rupees on account of his Debt
to the Company have not been complyd with, now deliver
in their Report which is read as follows

To the Honble Thomas Saunders Esq
President Governour & Council of
Fort St George

Honble Sir & Sirs

In Conveyance of a Resolution in Council
of the 13th Instant, we appointed a meeting with Sumpatroo
Underapaund the Nabobs Vakeel & Nenares one of the Nabobs
Moculdars and enquiring of them what Sums of Money
had been paide to the Company on the Nabobs Account since
the Commencement of the Troubles to which they severally
replyd they knew of no more than would plainly be seen
in their Accounts which they had at times delivered in and
referd us to them for the Particulars, but shewing that
Sumpatroos Account then before us was settled only to Sep
tember last, and we looking upon them as acting in the
notes of the Nabobs Diwan, who we apprehended should
make himself responsible for all Accounts from the Nabob of
this Post he held in his Service, it was to be expected an Expla
nation to him on this Subject was leading to the most direct
Channel it ought to come from and therefore we principally ad
dressd ourselves to him for a past Information, to which he
told us he had not been in any publick Station since the

Death

Fort St George June 1753

Death of old Anaverdy Cawn, Father to Mahomed Ally and
consequently he could not be regarded as Duan to him, the present
Nabob having had no Connection or Concern in his Government
at least to transact Affairs in that Capacity he was formerly
honour'd with and what he had undertaken of late proceeded
from a Point of Friendship and Esteem of assisting his Friend
with his Council and Advice whenever the Situation of his
Affairs required it, that he was invested with any pre
tick Employment, which if any Matters of Importance were
recommended to him by the Nabob he should always be
very willing to do his best Offices for them & chearfully obey
his Commands but this was the Extent of his Business or the
Light he appeard in, that Latterly he had not interfered in
any thing to give us a more ample Insight of the Nabobs
Affairs than what we should find on the Perusal of his Acct
he had lain before us, which contained the Summary of his
Transactions & he was utterly a Stranger to any other Accounts.

With regard to the several Orders the President
produced to the Board he had receivd from the Nabob on the
different Renters of the Province for the Payment of five Lack
of Rupees and which he acquainted us to have had so long
on his Possessions without any Manner of Effect in getting the
Money paid, we hondred the respective Orders to the aforesaid
Persons who were present with us to know if they had any
certain Knowledge of the Payment of the Money or any part
of it on whom those Bills were drawn upon, who in general
assurd us they believed nothing had been paid of those Draughts
offerd to their View & asking the cause of it that the Nabobs

Injunctions

Fort St. George June V753

Injunctions were dispatch'd in so slighting a Manner, the answers we've receivd from them was that the Country being in so unsettled and distracted a State, the Renters were not able to collect in their Money of even defraying the Common Charges they were at, and much less in complying with the Demands the Nabob had given upon them, that great part of the Country they had rented to make themselves accountable for the Payment of so large a Sum of Money were now actually in the hands of the Enemy and they were quite deprivd of the means to satisfy the Nabob in those Demands he had sent upon them and it was the Opinion of Sumpetrow and the Rest of them that the present Posture of Affairs Little or nothing could be rais'd of the Renters in consequence of those Orders as Abdul Wahab Cawn, the Nabob's Brother, was in those Parts raising Contributions wherever he could to maintain the Forces he had rais'd for the Defence of the Country Fomadauts and taking the Revenues to himself, which absolutely renderd the Nabobs Hamildars of those Districts incapable of furnishing the Supplies expected from them: Nunnas Royty to us was grantd on the same Compliant in default of the Payment of the Demand on him and it appearing to us he was one of the most considerable and substantial Renters if any Dependance could be had on the Nabobs Orders to procure Money from his Amildars which surprizd us the more on what Nunna added further to us, that the Nabobs Brother had deprivd him of his Places and Countries to leave him destitute of the Power or Authority for doing any thing beneficial to his Masters Interest

Fort St George June 1753

We now beg Leave to perswade your Honours &c we have executed your Commands to the best of our Power in the Affair recommended to us, and the above is a true Representation of the Facts recited to us which we submit to your further Consideration what other Measures to take of enforcing the Payment of the Money that as the Nabobs Debt is become so very large to the Company we think it highly necessary it should be effected by all means as much as possible We are with great Respect

Honble Sir & Sirs Your most Obedient & most humble Servants

Charles Boddam, Henry Bowrey, Jr Wynch

Whereon the Board are of Opinion that Compatroon's declaring he is neither the Nabobs Dewan nor in any other publick Employ, carries with it the Appearance of an Evasion The President is therefore desir'd when he writes to the Nabob to tell him he would do well to appoint Sumpatroon to manage the Affairs of this Country, which must draw from him a Declaration whether he has been invested with that Power or not and in regard to what the Amildars say in their Justification for not complying with the Nabobs Orders the Board are of Opinion that nothing further can be done in it until the Affairs of Trichenopoly are settled one way or the other

Tho: Saunders

Chas Boddam

Henry Bowrey

J Wynch

Tho: Smith

E Bourchier

Fort St George July 8th 1753

At a Consultation Present
Thomas Saunders Esq. Gov. Presidt
Charles Boddam Henry Bonney
Alexander Wynch John Smith
Charles Bourchier

Monday
the 2d

The President lays before the Board the Country and Camp Correspondence; amongst the former the only two worthy Remark are one from our Vakeel to Balaxarow the other from the Vakeel or rather Spy at Salabat Jungs Camp the most material Parts of which are related in a Letter from the President to Major Lawrence and is as follows viz.

To Stringer Lawrence Esq.

Sir

Fort St George 29th June 1753

I wrote you under Date the 25th Instant since which I have received two from Mr Polk of the 15th and 12th and one from you of the 13th by which I observe no further Alteration than the Junction of some Faujaur Horse and the Enemy's Encampment on the other Side the Calderoon which I am apprehensive will inconvenience you greatly the French have a third Ship arrived at Pondicherry I don't yet hear what Reinforcement they have received by her.

Our Vakeel to Balaxarow is on his Return, his Letter only confirms what already wrote you, Declarations of Friendship and that he will return to this Province after the Monsoon, I have Letters from Mr Pybus but there is no mention of the French having assisted the Morattas in taking Cannanore.

So Letter

Fort St George July 1753

Letters from our Vakeel at Salabat Jungs camp say that Sidoo Sircar Cawn's Counsel prevails, that Salabat Jung is on his March to Aurungabad with about one hundred French and one thousand Sepoys, that Mons.r Bussy with the Remainder accompany Mirr Mahomed Hussen Cawn who is appointed to the Subahship of Golconda; so that there should Mr Dupleix think Affairs required their returning to it may easily be effected in August and my Opinion is that he will recall them.

The Vakeel's Letter of the 6th May mentions that a Detachment of two hundred French & five hundred Sepoys were sent against the Killedar of Beda who refuses Contributions, in Heat of the 21st May he gives no further Account of it; he reports that the French are Masters of the Mussulmen and that the Morattas are in possession of most of that Country.

I have long ago delivered the Tanjour Vakeel a Watch, a Silver mounted Gun and Silver mounted Spying Glass.

The King of Mysore writes me he shall be contented if the Nabob pay him the Money or if 48.50.51.52.53 (the King of Tanjore) would be Security for it; the Nabob might readily mortgage a part of the Country for it or the other might possibly be Security, but on this there is no real Intention, a Dispute not to be ended would immediately arise, how much the Debt was, and if he was to charge as he would me Gloss the Sum would be immense; so that I think it must be look'd upon as designd only to amuse, the whole Province know that the Ropes of Archenapoly drew him from his own Country by nothing but ill Success will divert him from his purpose.

I could almost flatter myself that the Letter

Fort St George July 1753

of the — (11th May) will be well received in all respects by 50.48 66.46 (the King of Myssore) probably not 49.59.69.68 (the Nabob)

I have spent some hours in Reflection, I don think we are to be amused to no purpose, let him point out a more plausible Method and at the same time give me your Opinion of it whether he can do it: 48.49.50.51.59.60.61. (the Nabob, King of Tanjaur & the English) will play a more Game, to their last & only Push if their Play should succeed too many wish. 69.70.71.73 (want of Money) is grown exceedingly insolent and if I can form any judgment of the Disposition of Mankind, 59.60.61.62 (English) cannot bear his Haughtiness much longer

What I have said as I believe sufficient to demonstrate to you the General Opinion that prevails I hope soon to hear 100.102.104.108 (Distributes the guilles to Quarters and that 51.53.55.56 (the King of Tanjaur) has answered the End, if not, your Judgment will I imagine soon perceive what is to be done

Capt Ridge, Calliaud & Lee with Ensigns Campbel & Fraser are arrivd from England and have been delivered their respective Commissions, Messrs Chevers an Escher, Achilles Preston, Arthur Nelson & Joseph Simmons are preferd to Lieutenants and Mr Monroe to be Quartermaster the several Vacancies are fillid up except two that yet remain for Ensigns. One Mr Greg is come out in the List of Military, he says he is known and recommended to you, Captain Ridge tells me the Man knows his Duty I have therefore ordered him to act as a Volunteer which will entitle him to Preferment. He was I believe abroad with Mr Bevan as a Serjeant. I am, Sir Your most Obedt Servt Tho Saunders

after

Fort St George July 1753

After reading the foregoing the President received the following from Major Lawrence and Mr Palk

Sir Your favours of the 3d came to Hand this morning with Mr Cookes Advices of the Motions of his Neighbours which seem to spread like a Torrent; some Detachments from them may, more it is said are expected with Morari, we do not yet hear what Progress they have made; All that I can say is we shall do our best in every Circumstance; for the rest I refer you to my Letter of the 13th; nothing very material has happened since. Sure enough 62, 63, 64, 65 (the French) recover most surprizingly, the Sickly Season at 19, 20, 21, 22 (Friendly) and 102, 103, 104, 43 (Pittigherat Trichinopoly) added to 63, 69, 70 (our March) have done Wonders. I am busily employed in removing the Cause, for then it is to be hoped the Effect will in some measure cease. The enclosed is an answer to the Copy I sent you. He is very slow. The Nabob thinks Mr Palks passing him a Visit may make him more alert; with this Expectation he sets out this Evening.

I dont hear that any Correspondence passes between 59, 60, 61, 62, 79, 45, 46, 48, 5 (the English and King of Mysore) Indeed Jam of Opinion it would be to no sort of purpose, he is firm & steady. Our Spies make long Passages, I would be great Ease to 32, 33, 34, 35 (Changleput) if 62, 63, 64, 89, 99 (the French Garrison) could be better accommodated.

Mr Repington expresses a strong Inclination to join me but as the Moradas are dispersed every where I have ordered him to wait at St David. Black Tellows find great Difficulties on the Road how much more would an European. I am Sir Your most Obed Humble. J. Lawrence

P.S.

Camp near Trichinopoly
18th June 1753

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Fort St George July 1753

P.S. Captain Dalton has desird my Consent to draw on the Company for Rupees 20000 for the use of the Seapoys in this Garrison after my Departure, as the Request is reasonable I could not object to it

To the Honble Thomas Saunders Esq

Honble Sir

At the Request of the Nabob and Major Lawrence I came here yesterday to solicit his Highs Assistance, I waited on him immediately after my Arrival and on the Ambassador Khan I was very graciously receivd

I represented in the best Manner I was able the Nabobs Expectations from his Friendship and Alliance; Forces, Provisions and Money and after some hours Debate he concluded, that

As to Forces if a small Addition to those who had already joind were wanted he was ready to send them; that he could not leave his Country naked and exposd to the Ravages of the Morattas who were ready to take every Advantage; I told him that with his Assistance in a few days we should do the Business and then we might in Conjunction oppose his Enemies every where; that the Morattas were employed in other Schemes and that in a very little Time our Steps would supply us with a large Force. But all I could say would not prevail, in short I find his Inclinations are strong on the Nabobs behalf only he is apprehensive of the Event which added to the Menaces of Vanderoz & Morarce frighten him terribly, he is in a Quandary and would be glad to be of the right side

With regard to Provisions he promises to

Fort St George July 1753

his utmost and assures me that in a few days all the Bullocks & Cooleys that can be procured shall be dispatched. I wish he may find it so. he shall not want to be reminded what in all I can do. When I mentioned money he pleaded poverty he said he would spare all he could but I believe it will be very little, he is preparing for more men from St David as he can. I found Monaje would point for he had much rather have his old Neighbour continue than Nandroe at Trichenopoly

I believe a Letter however from you might forward our Affairs, I made use of your Name & told him that as he might one time or other want Assistance it would be good Policy to deserve it, he says you are his Brother, and that he expects every thing from you, in a few days we shall see what he will do

I am to wait here to purchase and dispatch all the Grain I can, to send for Arrack from Negapatam and to negotiate your Bills, this will take up some time but as soon as I found Monaje would point for he had much rather have placed in what is the present Crew getting Commissions & not return to Trichenopoly but shall wait your Answer & then make the best of my way to St David and immediately after to Madrass, I think I have had my Share of Campaigning - I am with the greatest Respect

Pondicherry 22d June 1753 Honble Sir

Your Honble Thomas Saunders Esq Your very humble & most Obedt Servant

Robt Palk

P.S.

I am told that the Dalaway intends to encamp near the Nabob, this Step must soon decide the Affair, & hitherto the Enemy have been very inactive

Pondicherry

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Tanjore 28th June 1753

Honble Sir

I acquainted you yesterday of my Arrival & Reception here, Procured Coolies encamped at the Morning to pay the Nabob a Sum amounting to Lacks more than the 4th Part of the Bills you sent lately and the Bullocks with Grain are to set out to morrow, more Cash am promis'd to follow, a poor Pittance this but it is a Remedy but Patience. I am Honble Sir Your very humble and Obedt Servt

Robt Palk

I hear Tondaman is on his March to join the Nabob

To the Honble Thomas Saunders Esq

The Army having been now a considerable Time at Trichinopoly and not the least Progress made towards an Accommodation and scarcely any towards their Subsistence with Provisions, whilst the Enemy's Strength is daily increasing which must certainly throw fresh Difficulties in the Way, the President is desirous to write again to the Mayor that no time should be lost but an Accommodation with the Tonjay brought about if possible as he plainly sees very little can be expected from the King of Tanjour who is not only alarmed with the Apprehensions of Danger in his own Country but also pleads Poverty & Tondaman's Delaterness has not as yet promised any very considerable Supply of Provisions which much Trichinopoly must inevitably fall into with the Troops in a few months More to more than procrastinate the Danger for should the Nabobs Army return to these Parts (and it is highly necessary it should as shortly as possible) the Dist

Enemy

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Dalloway will doubtless again block up the Sea so closely as to prevent any further Supplies going in whereby it must soon be reduc'd to its former distress and that at a time when the Rains and the Enemy's Force may render it Relief impracticable

Captain William Lin at Changlepat wrote the President that near one hundred Stand of Arms belonging to the Seapoys in Garrison there are in so bad a Condition that they are almost useless, desiring that they may be exchang'd for a like Number of New ones to be sent from hence

Resolv'd that to avoid the Necessity of an Escort, the Company of Seapoys at Changlepat be order'd hither to have their Arms exchang'd and then returnd to their Garrison

Jno Saunders
Lieut Governour
Henry Bowyer
P Wynch
Thos Saunders
C Boscawen

Fort. St George. July 1753

3 In Consequence of the Resolution on Consultation yesterday
the President wrote to Major Lawrence as follows

Major Lawrence Esq.

Sir, Fort St George 5th July 1753

The 29th ultimo was the date of my last
yours was the 18th & two from Mr Call of the 22d

It is plain I think that nothing
more can be expected from 48, 50, 51, 53 55 (the
Carnatic) and consequently that what 50, 55, 59
60) advances on that Subject will never satisfy
103, 66, 69, 71, 72 (Dubois and Want of Money)
59, 61, 64 (the English) do it. The 11th (as a
paid in General Letter 11 May) will be agreed
d, and is it not almost certain that 98, 100, 1
71, 72 (Dubois and Want of Money) will remove
thing thought with Circumstances that some People
a great Aversion to, and even if 99, 100, 102, 10
could be prevaild on to act a friendly part
50 (Inclemency for a few months, probably
96, 121, 134, 61, 64, 65 68, 70 to 30, 34, 38, 43
Major with the Army marching back to Tricho
ld then be practicable, the Consequences of wha

Sir Hector Monfort arrived here
with 2 Subalterns and 61 Foot are landed

Six my Opinion a ma
Plan of 58, 59, 61, 69 (the English) is to be
the main Point of 50, 49, 48, 53 (the Nab
conclude there remain little Difficulty and
then utmost Endeavours to carry such junction as they

Fort St George July 1753

nothing else will do.

Inclosd is a Letter to the Nabob which if you approve may be delivrd to him.

I am sorry Tondaman is so dilatory as well as Short Dispatch is of the utmost Consequence, tho we have another Ship arrivd, they will by the Advantage of Time joind to their Recruits be able to send abroad a force that the Nabob without Horse cannot obstruct.

We may expect two or three Ships ev'ry daily and the others very soon as they were all saild and have all Recruits on board, they certainly pass St David without touching.

What I have wrote is the General Opinion of the Step to be taken, it appears the only one and I heartily wish you very speedy Success in it.

I am Sir Your most Obedient Servant

Thomas Saunders.

Sr. Recvd the following Letters from Major Lawrence & Mr Pitt

Pit

Trichenopoly 26th June 1753

I wrote you word in my last that I had sent Mr Palk to Tanjore, I suppose he has acquainted you of what passd between him and the Raja.

Since my last the Enemy have encampd on a strong Post between us and Tondaman's Country with a Design to stop our Provisions. The Quantity we have at present 105 106. 107. 108. 112. 113. 114 (of Officers & Military) posted out of my power 90. 91. 92. 93. 63. 45. 46 (to make an Attempt on the French and Myssoreans) The Distance 86. 87. 88. 90 (to St. David) makes 76. 77 (the want of Provisions) a Point to be observd. For this and other Reasons which your Honor is not

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sufficiently Equiped to explain I propose shortly by 68 by 50, 51 (Monarch to Tanjour) as it appears the most reasonable Method by which I can assist 43, 45, 48 (Trichinopoly) I should be glad that you would as soon as possible send the largest Supply you can of 112, 113, 105, 106, 107 (Officers & Military) after which I shall either by 62, 91 92, 62, 63, 96, 88 (make) an Attempt against the Enemy and Myssoreans or take any other Step which may appear best to you for the Good of the Service. The Situation of our Friend 80, 75 79 (Trichinopoly) is such that he need not fear his Enemies particularly as I shall support him if he is in danger, your sending me what I have before mentioned will put it more in my power also I am in great Measure my Reason for 67, 68, 50, 51 (marching to Tanjour) I hope he will act as I would have him and likewise 81, 60, 61 (provisions) I am Sir Your most Humble Servant

J. Lawrence

Humble Set

Tanjour 27th June 1753. 7 P.M.

The inclos'd arrived just now, a great Number of Bullocks for Trichinopoly are setting out and what to do the Hon'ble I know not to command them would be put setting the Major Intentions, and to send them on with as fleetness my Friend very cruelly for he has really took Pains to get them together they must proceed till Contrary Orders meet them

I send back 41, 51, 52 (the Tanjour) will do well provided with the 73, 58, 68, 69 (Marc) they have not been supplied (the Expectation of) 3, 6, 7, 106 (Officers & Military) will take up some supposing we were

Fort St George July 1753

certain of Success in 92.46.48.50 of which I have some doubt
at least there is nothing to be depended on. I dont well understand
yo. 771 Want of Ammunition, I am thinking that our Friends at
Tranquebar might assist us, on this occasion and some others as
Negapatam lies rather more convenient

From Day Light to ten this Morning there was
been a constant Roar of heavy Cannon, I hope they are well
pointed as they cannot be from the Enemy. I am with great Re-
spect Honble Sir Your most Obedient
To The Honble Thomas Saunders Esq. Humble Servant
Robert Palk

P.S. I hear from the Mercar's that the Enemy took Attoor
the 24 at night and that they cannonaded the Major's Camp on
the 25th which obliged us to move

The President having communicated the fore
going Letters to the Gentlemen of Council it was Unanimously
Opinion that as the Enemy's Strength is continually increasing
and the Nabob's Affairs at Trichinopoly seem daily to be grow-
ing worse & worse, there is no other Method to be pursued than
an Accomodation with the Malloway and to enforce this Opi
nion the more it was thought proper to write the Major the fol
lowing General Letter viz.t

Stringer Lawrence Esq.r

Sir The President communicated to us your Letter
of the 25th Though we had given Directions to the Deputy
Governors &c. Council of Fort St David to send the Recruits
yet it unluckily happens that not one of the Troops have touched
there, you may depend upon our Dispatching as many Men & Offic.rs

Fort St George July 1753.

as possible and we wish they could arrive with you in any tolerable time but from the Experience of a Company's Ship who sailed from hence the 10th Instant and is no further than Anjengo, we are apprehensive of the Contrary, we mention this that you may concert your Measures accordingly.

After mature Consideration we are of Opinion that the Affairs of 15, 16, 20, 27, 38, 49, 50, 52 (the Nabob) are your particular Attention, the only Question is whether 69, 100, 102, 104 (Distress and Want of Money) can be remedied as seems to raise his Head again by 100, 20, 49, 104, 111, 119 (the Nabob) our Opinion is, not, it is but reasonable some Stop of Attack should be provided and but we see no other than (v.e. General Letter of the 11th May) if he does not concur has we think it may with Justice be ask'd him whether he chuses to let the Enemy fall upon him defenceless which in [illegible] will be his Condition, or will make use of such measures as present themselves, in short one of the other seems absolutely necessary that before it is too late, we are assured of your best Endeavours to bring this to an Issue as soon as possible and present us with your Success, we really think it must be so and our Opinion is founded on more Reasons than one, Besides what is already mentioned, if after 99, 100, 106, 107, 111, 113, 122, 104, 19, 21, 26 (Affairs & Military have gone most with such a lucky Affair as 59, 69, 63, 72 (the French at 30, 52, 56, 59 (Bussoor &c. a total Defeat) which is very improbable considering 94, 82, 73, 65, 55, 34, 12, 11, 16, 3 (the French at Trichenopoly) mends in point of Health & Vigour daily, I as this Season of the Year agrees perfectly with his Constitution, Mine is no doubt but it will continue to

Fort St George July 1753

increase so as to enable him to attend his Affairs with greater
Afiduity the Consequence would probably bring about a total
Breach of Discours between 39. 99. 89. 62. 78. 38. 41. 43 [illegible]
18. 11. 5. 4. 3 (the Nabob) Treachery & Deceit and all the Evils
in those parts we therefore cannot too frequently repeat that we
not only think it advisable but absolutely necessary the [illegible]
79. 82. 85 (Quarrel) should be totally extirpated and the
best way to do this is to bring about the Marriage (i.e. Treaty)
frequently hinted at. 99. 111. 80. 89. 28 (the Nabob) proteresy
nd to like the Bride as ridiculous, the Affections should always
give way to State Policy and therefore a Categorical Answer
should be demanded of him; if upon this he could resolve to
do violence to his Inclinations perhaps a Difficulty may
still arise, the Austerity of Parents you know is often very
great and 111. 74. 63. 56 (the French) as of this Nature, has
great Interest and may at least protract if not prevent the
Match, and we are apt to think this is the Case as he have
(i.e. the Mysore Vakeel) in whom the place great Confidence
afsurd as it would be agreeable, what other Obstacles there can
have be? You must be best able to judge whether this [illegible]
and if you think it is let 41. 11. 61. 89. 50. 74 (the Nabob) not
concur, and we hope if the Affair be reperd here we shall
soon be able to settle the point. If you should differ from us
in Opinion in the whole or part, we should be very glad of
your Sentiments what other Step can be taken. Inclosed is
the Letter to the Nabob which was not finished last Night
We are Sir Your most Obedient Servants
Chas Boddam Henry Lowney Ad Wynch
Smith Chas Bourchier

St George
July 1753

Fort St George July 1753

At a Consultation Present

Thomas Saunders Esq Gov & Presid

Charles Boddam Henry Stevens

Tuesday the 10th Alexander Wynch . John Smith

Charles Bourchier

The Country & Military Correspo
read, the material Contents are to the following Effec

Two Letters from Balaseroo whe
he acknowledges the Receipt of Mr Saunders and M
Kenagee Pant (our Vackeel) had acquainted him that
Honours he should send an Army to assist Nabob Anwa
Crown and protect Trichenopoly that his Intentions w
have done so after settling his Affairs at Ayengapato
as the meanstime receiving Advice that the Pallars were
their March towards Tulby it obliged him to return to
own Country, that however he would certainly come af
the Monsoon and in Conjunction with us settle the Cou
Country, he further says he had discours'd with our V
on that Subject, and refers us to him for what pass'd o
Occasion

Kenagee Pant (our Vakeel to Ba
ram) writes that in a Conference with Balaseroo Ram
represented to him the Situation of Affairs in these Par
and desir'd he would send an Army to settle them, he
plyd to that same Effect as above mentioned and added
when he was at Tanjore with Sahabat Jung, Mr Bus
the French Officer became an Mediator and reconcil'd the
by which he gained his Friendship and as the French

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at Pondicherry seem to act agreeable to him, he cannot expect
injure them on a sudden, therefore would be unprepared for him
to send an Army, but must come himself. He further said that
when Salabat Jung through Mr Bussy's Interest had grant-
ed Chunda's Son a Sanad for Arcot & Trichenopoly he com-
prised in favour of Mahomed Ally, in Consequence whereof
it was agreed between him & Mr Bussy in the Presence of
Salabat Jung, that Mahomed Ally Cawn should have the
Government of the Trichenopoly and Chunda's Son that of
the Arcot Country; That he had resolved to come and settle
them in their respective Governments accordingly when he
was obliged to return to his own Country, and that until
he could come into these parts after the Monsoon he strongly
recommended to the English by all means to preserve the
Fort of Trichenopoly, to assist Mahomed Ally Cawn and ob-
tain for him from Salabat Jung a fresh Sanad for the Go-
vernment of Arcot & Trichenopoly, which will be a Sanction
to him for espousing the Nabob's Cause and justify him
with the Opposite Party if they should accept their Friendship

From Seydoo Lascar Cawn, He acknowledges
the Receipt of the President's Letter of Congratulation on his
being appointed Duan to Salabat Jung and says that
Prince is determined to settle the Affairs of the Province and
extirpate the Enemy, and that a Scheme is on foot whereby
they will meet their Deserts, that in regard to the President's
Hint concerning Assistance to be given to the lawful Prince,
Salabat Jung has the same Thing in view, assuring us
continue from us (Salabat Jung's) Subject to us have
already given Instances of our Duty.

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A Letter from Mackadawa Pant Cous Private Agent
to Salabat Jungs Camp, advises that Salabat Jung was arrived
at Aurungabad and had with him 100 French and 1000 Horse
the rest of the French were sent to Golcondah. That all the
Maralla Troops were Assembled and gone with Monsr Bussy
that Sydoo Lascar Cannot has the entire Management of
Affairs. That a Letter sent to come from the President was
delivered to Salabat Jung, who, as he heard, ordered an Friendly
Answer to be returned, and adds that he is informed it is intend
ed to send a Vakeel to Mahomed Ally Cawn for the Arcot Coun

Letters from the Nabob and King of Tanjore
contain nothing but a Repetition of what they already wrote
several Times; Viz.

A Letter from the King of Cuddalore inform
he says that relying on our Friendship he has ordered his
Ships to call here in their way to Bengal and desires a L
may be wrote to the Gentlemen there to give him Negotiat
all possible Dispatch and Assistance.

Draughts of Letters to the Nabob and
King of Tanjour are now read and approved.

Ordered that the Nabob the President
lays before him the desperate Situation of his Affa
rent and particularly that whatever good Intent
Cawn may have, nothing can be expected from him
present at his own Affairs requires his Presence at
that the Enemy are powerful and without Horse we cannot
look them in the Face, but if this cannot be done now
raised, the Conveyance must be sure to prevent which a C
with the Calloway and Horses keeps absolutely incap
drawing he must consult with Major Lawrence

Fort St George July 1753

In the Letter to the King of Tanjore we
quainted that there seems but two Measures that can be pursued, ei
ther to fight the Enemy or accommodate Matters If the former be
resolvd on he should lose no Time in joining and exerting himself
to the utmost and the Major will be reinforcd with Men from hence

The Board having maturely considered the fore
going Letters are by the Contents of those from Balazarow and re
Vakeel confirmd in their former Opinion that an Expedition can
be plan'd on the Measures and even that there is too much reason
to apprehend he may incline to the French Interest from what
past between him and our Vakeel in the Conference where he men
tion'd the Reconciliation between him and Salabat Jung through
the Mediation of Mons Bussy and his Agreement with them to
place Mahomed Ally Cawn in the Government of Trichinopoly
and Chunda's Son in that of the Arcot Country a design which
should Balazarow be really inclind to favour or by force of Mo
ney (which to him is irresistible) be prevaild on to adopt are
support, the grand Point the Company have been so long labouring
to gain will at once be utterly snatchd from their Jaws There is
reatment which is wholly made in the Arcot Province will in that
Case fall entirely under the Power of the French as the Manage
ment of that Province will be in the hands of their Friend or
rather Creature, whilst very few if any Advantages can be drawn
from the Friendship or Assistance of Mahomed Ally Cawn in his
too distant Government of Trichinopoly And this Plan seems so
much the more dangerous as with respect to the Contending Parties
Mahomed Ally & Chunda, it bears the Appearance of a probable
and reasonable one and the readiest Method of settling the Country
in peace Points to effect this has all along been the Object of
Dupleix has constantly kept in prospect on the part of the
Province In regard to the Letter from Sydoo Lasser Cawn it
is meet to be doubted whether it be genuine or not for it is also
said that whenever the Nabob's Affairs have been involved in
the greatest Perplexity Letters of this Kind have been made to appear
have at other Times but even if it were really wrote by Sydoo

Fort: St George: July 1753

Tanjore Cause / whether to be evacuated by the French, or whatever other Motives prevail / the cautious if not evasive manner in which it is worded the French & Mahomed Ally Cawn not have mentioned the nicknack Cannon and Six Lasfat Peons / contrary to the Custom of Countries Cannon & Retinue of Ceremony / not sufficient Reason for not Enabling any Superior to the unanimous Sentiments of the Board and the Steps necessary to be taken thereon being also considered they are further of Opinion that if it were possible to procure both the Tuckeragate Coast Provinces to the Nabob it would undoubtedly be the Company's Interest to do so, but that the attempting it under the present distressed Circumstances and unfavourable Prospects will be attended with the imminent Danger either of falling into the Enemy's Hands or of undergoing the aforementioned Dangers, an Alternative less absurd as disadvantageous to the Company, whilst on the other Hand could Matters be accommodated with the Nabob the Company might probably recover the large Sum of Money they have disbursed on the Nabobs Account, our Forces might wholly be drawn off to act on the Coast Country where they might be able to make a long Stand and be more within reach to protect our own Settlements in case of need Upon the whole therefore it is Resolved that the Plan so frequently deliberated on & so often confirmed, namely, that of treating with the Dalaway on the Terms proposed in the General Letter to Mr Pitt Esqr now at Sea the 11th May is the only one that can be pursued at present with any Probability of Success under the fear of it being brought to a Conclusion Should at length determine the King of Tanjore to afford with his whole Force and heartily support the Nabobs Cause and determine oblige the latter to think of some means of supporting the heavy Charge of the War which seems unavoidable

A Letter from Mr Pitt to Mr Mackett at Fort St David dated Tanjore 29 June as the following Paragraph / Inclosed Duplicate came in post now and with it a Report that may be credited / The Nabob has obtained a Victory over the Dalaway in which the Enemy are said to have

Fort St George July 1753

"Three Guns, one Mortar a great deal of Ammunition & the
"Stand of Arms, that Ballaja, Morarow's Commander was killed
"and the Marcars say two Officers Hungars taken Prisoners

Captain Pigott at Arcot writes that on certain Intelligence of the Enemys Approach, he proposes to withdraw the Detachments from Conjeeram, Mustapha & Timmery &

A Bill of Exchange for three thousand (3000) and eight thousand (8000) Arcot Rupees drawn by Captain Dalton being now laid before the Board together with a Letter advising that the same is for the Nabobs Account to pay Charges and other necessary Disbursements at Trichinopoly, it is Agreed that the same be accepted and paid when due and that Captain Dalton be directed to apply it to that and no other use for that nothing but mutual Expences will be allowed in his Account out of the Money advanced the Nabob by the Company.

A Vide Con. 25 June

The President acquainting the Board that the King of Tanjour's Vakeel being in want of some money to defray his necessary Expences here has desired an Advance of twelve hundred Pagodas for which he offers a Draught on the King his Master Agreed that the same be paid him whenever he shall apply for it

Tho: Saunders
Edwd Wheeler
Henry Bonney
Wm Lodth
Geo: Bouchier

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Fort St George July 1753

At a Consultation Present
Thomas Saunders Esq Gov President
Charles Boddam Henry Lawes
Alexander Hynch John Smith
Charles Bourchier

Monday
the 16th

Genl Letter from Richard Mark Esq

read viz.

To the Honble Thomas Saunders Esq
President and Governour &c Council of
Fort St George

Honble Sir & Sirs

Inclosed is a Letter from Mr Lawrence to the President, one from Captain Dalton to Mr Lawrence & a Copy of one from Mr Lawrence to me wherein as he hopes that I will not wait for an order to send Assistance ready money I am preparing the same to go by Boats to Devicotah and in consequence of what he mentions regarding me in his Letter to the President shall send in a Day or two a Detachment from hence consisting of 134 Military, 9 of the Train and 300 Sepoys with 2 Field Pieces commanded by Lieut Rigney to Devicotah with Orders to Mr Lawrence to reinforce him with as many Men as he can spare. These Steps I hope first will meet your Approbation

Mr Lawrence in his Letter to the President mentions that the Nabob and King of Tanjore are averse to the delivering up of Sichegaty & if they ought to use Chunda to declare immediately whether they can support the Charge of this expedition Or not, nothing remains to be done but to satisfy the King of Mysore and make him an Allowance for keeping as few Garrisons as possible. I am with the greatest Respect Honble Sir and Sirs

Your most Obedient humble Servant

Fort St David
the July 1753

Fort St George July 1760

The Camp Correspondence read as follows.

Honble Sir Sanjour 29 June 1760

Mr Cooke's Packet to the Major arrived
and was forwarded early this morning, as I imagined it might
contain a Letter for me I took the Liberty to open it and read
it on with an Apology and the following Letter to Mr
Lawrence.

"I have a Letter from Governour Morse
"in which he recommends the Substance of the General Letter
"he left and thinks great Advantages may accrue from it to
"which I shall only say in answer that if you approve of
"it another Attempt shall be made.

"I have this day spent some Hours with
"the King, he recommends strongly 16. 21. 106 - 73. 88, says if
"all things it may be brought about he will on that Case
"21. 41. 81, he is confounded at the Report of 121. 68 pray do
"18. 50, desires me over & over again to recommend a close
"Correspondence & hopes the Distances will not be great conductive
"that 21. 41. 51 will be on a Blaze, Manager was well here
"and in Spirits.

"I send you a Havana yesterday was returned from
"with the news of Hamson's being routed and obliged to
"retreat from Mallampettah to Nonnear with the Loss of a large
"Quantity of Paddy which fell into the Enemy's Hands who
"are now with Horse and Foot & one Gun.

The above is in some measure an answer
to your favour. I really believe there is no Danger here of 23
22 24 25 the Number 11 has always been my Favourite could
it be brought about handsomely, if you are still of that Opinion
suppose you wait to 10 11 15 16 18 and give it an Opinion
he does not much relish 2 35 121 15, 18 19, 50 as the same
Opinion with his Friend at 23 38 73 but he is very conforma
ble and all things considered behaves well.

Sidee Hurdoon the Nabob's Vakeel is just
come

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Fort St George July 1753

come in with a Letter from his Master, he read it further than my
Per would vent but imperfect as it is I will give all I could
save of it

Answerdy Cawn to Sidi Macdaan

"Inchenopaly 27 June. This Day God Almight hy gave me
"a great Victory. 100 English Seapoys being posted on a Rock
"near Pongar Coondar to cover the Provision from Pondamalie
"Country. The whole Myssore Army with the French and Rallap
"the adopted Son & Commander of Morarow's Horse came and
"surrounded the said Rock early in the Morning

"Major Lawrence with his Coy Army and the Son
"jees Horse marchd to the Relief of it. The English began the Attac
"and fell on the Enemy like Lightning. The French soured it too
"warm and repeated after some time and Lolo under Cover of the
"Cavalry brought three Guns 1 Mortar 4 Carts of Ammunition
"1400 Stands of Arms on the Ground, many Horse were killed &
"taken "After this their whole Black Army made a Mov
"of attacking mine and that very resolutely but after losing 100
"Horse they dropt their Heads and rode off in disorder

"Nandi Rauze's Dependence has hitherto been on
"his Troops from Pondicherry, what will he do now when he find
"they desert him so abruptly. Among the rest Rallapa's Corps
"was left on the Ground, we sent it in a Palankeen to their Camp
"they being done in a hurry is the Reason I am not more
"particular What can I say more

The above is the Consequence of the constant
Love I mentioned to you the 2nd. I must now make the same
Excuse with the Nabob as I could not detain the Messenger who
only brings a Duplicate of the Mayors last. I expect every
Minute his Account of this Action which shall be forwarded
expeditiously. With the greatest Regard I am

The Dane are expected in a Hondle Sir, Your most Obedient Servant
few days to visit the King, very badly Robt Palk
Monsieur was at Verdachelum from
whence he had sent to Walconda

Fort St George July 1753

Sir N°26 Trichenopoly June 27 1753

Yesterday the Enemy attackd one of our Redoubts
Post which being defended only by Seapoys they carried before
could get up to their Assistance. Upon my marching out with the
Main Bear whole Army did the same and a general Action ensu
in which the Nabobs Troops were lucky enough to retake the
and repulse the Enemy who went off in such Confusion that they
left two Pieces of Cannon and a Mortar behind them likewise
their killd and wounded amongst whom we found Bollapah, Mo
rees Nephew who commanded all the Morattas now with the Du
way, he was shot dead however as these People make a great
Point of burying Men of his Rank in their own Manner I
sent him to their Camp in one of our own Palankeens, which
Ballagyapa, the next Officer to him, seemd vastly thankful for

This Loss was very considerable both in Men and
Horses, it must certainly give the Dalleway a strange Idea
of his European Ally for though backd by so numerous an
Army they behavd in a most dastardly Manner

I shall in a very few days by the Ships
we are at present but badly stockd with 105, 106 n°. 76. 77.
you'll please to regulate our Investies in that Article. If you
had had out a Body of tolerable Horse with us, this last
Affair had been decisive. I am

Sir

Your most Obedient Servant
S. Lawrence

Sir N°27

I have three of your Letters unanswerd
those of the 13th & 21st which I did not receive till the 20th and
that of the 20th which is just come in

any the
Stone

Fort St George July 1753

This additional 10000 will make the Cash hold out some time, after that Pruckunjee Lingdoo will supply us.

It is very true that the Gentleman you mention has a sincere Friendship for part of the 11th as well as that he Friends have an utter Aversion to some other Parts of it.

No. 41. 45. 49. 50 Mangles hard with 70. 71 &c but yet he thinks with his Friends Assistance 41. 51. 61 able to carry his Point, neither he nor the former exemplary Set of Letters for the 11th but conclude that the old way is best to have explained in the best manner I am able the Observations between 45. 49. 50. 59. 62 as also 100. 102. 104. 105. He was very sensible of it but still says that 38. 40. 43. 45. 81. 82 as all his Dependence.

I have forwarded your Letter to the Dalaway it has had no Effect he still hopes something good may happen by a third Hand, but when consulted to no purpose.

The French have sure Intelligence as to our Expences and are therefore destroying those they have taken except Challiendroog where no doubt they keep to defend it and will probably collect their force in a Body with a view of bringing on the field. We must do the same as we shall feel the bad Consequences, 48. 49. 50. 51. 59. 60. 61. 62 have agreed 00. 01. 02. 03 45. 46 98 but then 86. 87. 88 will be mediately, & any Opinion 55. 57. 59 will affect with his almost 106. 107. 108. 112. 113 Something ready contrived to relieve 75. 76. 77 &c. this he have instantly. Mr Darrow is very diligent.

I am glad the several Commissions are dele he glad to see them soon. Mr Pigg had a Commission Ward him when last in the Country he is well recommended and the sooner you prefer him the better.

For other Retendant I must refer you to Mr Call who will read on you on Purpose but moment I will have

few days to Monsoon and when he had

Fort St George July 1753

I must now tell you that it will be necessary that some Persons of Council either at Madras or Fort St David should be sent to manage the N^t^ for I find that my other Duty in the Field is full enough, if not too much for me to think of and that I am not able to undergo the Fatigue

I ought to mention, because it is due to their Merit, the extraordinary gallant Behaviour of Captains Kilpatrick and Kirk who forc'd up a Rock against two Companies their Number of Europeans and in the face of 2000 Seapoys & then dislodg'd them & attack'd them in Flank, whilst we did the same in front, a more extraordinary Action I have never yet seen in short all the Officers and People in general behaved very bravely. I am Sir

Your most humble and
most Obedient Servant
Stringer Lawrence

Camp near Sanjour
4^th^ July 1753.

I inclose you a Letter just now receivd from Captain Dalton.

Resolv'd that a Detachment of Artillery amounting [illegible] by a return now delivered in, to 237 Men Off. be ready to receive them for Fort St David to compose the Army under the Command of Major Lawrence and that a General Letter be wrote to the Deputy Governour and Council there directing them on the Arrival of that Ship to Land the Men who are to proceed to join the Army by such Route as may expose them as little as possible to the Danger of being intercepted by the Enemy

The President Lays before the Board a Letter to him from George Pigot Esq^r^ Chief of Vizagapatam inclosing Accounts of Sundries supplied Mr Hunter for his Expedition to the Negrais, also the Charges of repairing the Cuddalore Sloop and Sundry Necessaries supplied the same Sloop. Order'd that the Accountant do carry the same

Fort St. George July 1753

same to their Proper Heads in the General Books

Hon.ble Saunders
Col. Boddam
Henry Powney
Wynch
John Smith
Ch.s Bourchier

At a Consultation Present
Thomas Saunders Esq.r Gov.r President
Charles Boddam, Henry Powney
Alexander Wynch John Smith
Monday Charles Bourchier
the 23.d

The President Lays before the Board the Country and Military Correspondence

Amongst the former are two Letters from the King of Tanjore giving the strongest Assurances of his Attachment to the Nabobs Cause which he says he shall consider as his own and use his utmost Efforts to oppose the Enemy and as a Proof of this he has already ordered Morarjee with two thousand Horse to join our Forces under Major Lawrence desiring that we will send a Strong Detachment of Europeans to reinforce the Army immediately that the Enemy may be brought to reason without delay before Health will enable them to support the Charges of the War much longer than the Nabob and his Allies

Fort St. George July 1753

A Letter from the Nabob confirms the King of Tanjours Advices, and that he proposd beginning his March back to Trichenopoly the 12th Instant he seems to place a great Dependence on the King of Tanjours but is silent on the point Coll the President wrote to him about, namely by what means he proposes to support the Charges of the War

Letter from N. Calk as follows

Honble Sir. Pondicherry 13 July 1753

I left the Major last Wednesday Evening at his Camp six Miles on the other Side of Tanjour proposing to march in conjunction with Monogee and the Kings Forces the next morning to Kyrinoor a Town in Sondamans Country about 16 Miles from Trichenopoly, there to wait the Junction of Mundamiah from Madura, the Moravar and Sondaman and I believe the Detachment expected from St. David, when I am just advisd of as I was geting into the Boat, but as many little Things are wanted in Camp and the Kings People here to assist in carrying them on, I have detained to day till to morrow to hasten them which I can do the more effectually as the King sent a Vakeel to accompany me from this Country to procure necessaries

I am in hopes this will be a good Reinforcement as they add to it from this Place 200 Europeans, 100 Topays and some Spare Horse

I did not receive your favour of the 1st till the 12th at Combaconum which I shall defer answering till I have the Pleasure of seeing you. Finding affairs very greatly which are not quite recovered. It is necessary to inform you that my leaving the Major was by his Desire by Letter some days before his Arrival at Tanjour and also the King requested who will now joine and I hope to some Purpose. Intelligence is just brought in from Chellumbrum

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Fort St George July 1753

Advertises that Moranna has left Tranquebar and that he is now dispos'd Colonels at Carr belonging to the Cuddapah Nabob, two days March from Pondachelum

Encloses a Letter from the King of Tanjore and the Nabob to be Letters and sends for Ramarow.

I am with great Respect

Sir

Your most Obedient

& Humble Servant

Tho. Saunders

The President also lays before the Board Copy of a Letter from them to Major Lawrence as follows

To Stringer Lawrence Esqr

Fort St George 23d July 1753

Sir

Since I wrote you the 3d and a General one of the 9th Instant I have received yours of the 27th ultimo and 7th Instant and one from the King of Tanjore wherein he expresses a Warmth for the Nabob's Cause, he mentions the Danes would join with two hundred men, there is a Rupt at Tanjore between the Danish Major with eighty men and some Sepoys are paying him a Visit to settle the Negotiation for their building a Fort at Tranquebar, but nothing further.

The Nabob writes in his old Stile and enters into no Answer on the Subject I wrote him in short he has not Courage to look into his own Affairs but that is what we must insist on, what made you in the General one of the 9th is our Opinion and we think the Cafe succeeds you not walk and the Guardian of the King of Tanjore will greatly promote it and we impatiently wait your Opinions, this to no Purpose for him to answer us, let us judge what we think reasonable ourselves.

I have wrote the Nabob a short Letter, Copy Enclosed, also one to the King of Tanjore

Lieut Repington is Shipt aboard with

Fort St. George July 1753

you, we sent on the Portfield a strong Detachment, the event has been favourable which gives hopes She may meet with a good Passage

I think the first Thing to be done is to have as large a Quantity of Provisions as possible into Trichinopoly

Inclosed is a Bill on the King of Tanjore for Pagodas 1200. Captain Dalton's for Rupees 8000 & Pagodas 1000 has been accepted and paid, that Gentleman does not think fit to send his Accounts or Returns, please to receive them from him and if upon Perusal you find any needless Charges struck them out, at this Juncture I would be ungenerous to make the Company a Perquisite.

Two French Ships passed by Pheasa they have 150 Military for Metchlepatam.

In regard to the 11th what seems to be most wanting is 30. 33 15. 19. 52. The Nabobs Resolution of which we have made already very largely

It is a Pleasure to hear of the Gallant Behaviour of your Officers. My Compliments to them, the Loss of so many Horse at different Times must be very disagreeable to the Enemy, they are not easily replaced and the Value of them is considerable

Mr Pitt is amicably here and has given me an Account of the Situation of the Nabobs Affairs. Congratulate you on the Success you met with and hope it will continue.

We have by Experience seen that if the English and French were drawn off from the Country Powers they would soon end their own Disputes but while we interpose as each are determined to support their Friends the Troubles may not subside many years and 'tis as evident that Mr Dupleix and we may settle the Province to the mutual Advantage of our Principals, this I shall write Mr Dupleix, I imagine he will not be inclined to it but then it will be known in Europe 'tis his and not our Fault that the Troubles continue

D[illegible]

Fort St George 2 July 1753

Dear Sir

Your most Obedient Servant
Thomas Saunders

Which the Board approved

Thos Saunders
President
Henry Lascelles
W Hornby
John Smith
C Bourchier

At a Consultation Present
Thomas Saunders Esq. Gov. Presid.
Charles Boddam Henry Lascelles
Alexander Wynch John Smith
Monday Charles Bourchier
the 30th

The President Lays before the Board the Country Marya Correspondence amongst the Letters from the Mysore Dalaway the Nabob and the King of Tanjore containing Repetitions of what they have already respectively made as observed in preceding Consultations and the Nabob that he is on his Return to Trichinopoly with the Mayas Army and shall hold a few days by the way to assemble all his Forces that Sundaram has entered into a fresh Alliance with him that the King of Tanjore has agreed to send for

Fort St George July 1753

the Danish Force from Tranquebar to act in Conjunction with him and has promised to furnish forty thousand Colams of Grain for Tachenapaty and that by the joint Consent of all the Letters have been sent to the Phousdar of Madura, Necoma & Valcondey to come to the Assistance of the Circar

And the President acquaints the Board the Nabobs Vakeel in his Masters Name had desird him to send for the Mysore Vakeel to discourse with him on the Subject of his Masters Demands and hear what Proposals he had to offer

Draughts of Letters in answer to the foregoing were also read and approvd.

That to the Dalaway the President offers himself as Mediator in the Difference with the Nabob, desires he will empower his Vakeel to treat on that Subject and to signify by Letter to the President that he will abide by any Agreement his Vakeel shall enter into

That to the Nabob is to advise him to come to Terms of Friendship with the Dalaway and the President acquaints him that in consequence of his Desire he will speak with the Mysore Vakeel, desiring to be informd whether he has entered into any and what particular Agreement with the King of Tanjour, Tondaman and the Polygars who are to join him that so we may not again be engagd in Disputes as with the Dalaway by his Secret Engagements, that as to the Danes they are only settling their own Affairs with the King of Tanjour and nothing can be expected from them. That he the President, is informd Abdul Bob Cawn has stopp'd 50000 Rup of the Tripaty Money, desiring an Order for Payment of it immediately and that he will direct Sampetrow to settle the Company's Accounts

That to the King of Tanjour is only to acquaint him that according to his Desire a Reinforcement of Europeans has been sent and desiring to know whether the Nabob has made any

Fort St George July 1753

any particular Agreement with him and what

Draught of a Letter from the President to Cuddalore
Cawn or answer to one received from him some time ago wherein
upbraids him that he & the President had for three years past
shall continue to support the Cause against a certain Rajah
Tondo at Tanjo wherein that are employ'd their united Power
and are endeavouring by Ejection the Enemies of the Cause but
the Governor for Encouragement in which should they succeed their
Intentions are to get a large Body of Troops and conquer other
country he will write in what manner he would have us act

The following is the only Letter received from Maj.
Lawrence viz.

Sir No 28

I received the enclosed Letter from the Dal
may yesterday which I took the Liberty of opening that we
might not clash with each other but find nothing but hostile

Since Mr Palk's Departure your Letter
of the 1st is come to hand, but as the Messengers are so liable to be
intercepted don't choose to answer particularly to it but must refer
you to Mr Palk who is well acquainted with the Contents you are
on

by Mr Nabob Monajee and Cam to me
Sundaman the Evening

I am Sir Your most Obedient humble Servant
Stringer Lawrence

Comandr in Chief
16 July 1753
To the Honble Tho Saunders Esq

Draught of a Letter from the President intended
to send the Major in read and approved as follows

Sir

Fort St George July 1753

To Stringer Lawrence Esqr

Fort St George 31 July 1753

Sir

Your last was the 16th Instant, I forgot to mention to mind of the 22d that Foreign Commissions were drawn out for Messrs Gregg and Black

Lieut. Rupington with his Detachment are to Sail with you and as the Portsfield convoy is that with to the Command of Captain Ridge to Trincomale I hope to meet soon join you

The Winchelsea is arrived at Fort St David her Stay there I suppose will be short in that we may daily expect Colonel Lal here

The King of Tanjours Report concerning the Danes joining him will I believe turn out as expected, only and Embassy to settle their own Affairs he seems to be uneasy at Morarie crossing the Coleroon, I have told him you will concert your Measures accordingly

I have received the Dalaways Letter, as you are acquainted with the Contents there is no Occasion for Repetition, as the Nabob has desired me to talk with the Second Vakeel, I have wrote Mr Dalaway to give him Answer

The Nabob writes me nothing particular as I have before mentioned, I think he ought to come to some Resolution, we shall be very glad of your Opinion on what wrote on that Subject

Inclosed come Copies of Letters to the King of Tanjour, Dalaway and Nabob

Ships Egmont and Elizabeth are arrived here, the Company have sent out a new Charter which engrosses our Time at present, as soon as we have put it in motion shall consider of what Mr Pitt mentions concerning Courts Martial

I am Sir Your most Obed and Servant

Tho Saunders

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Fort St George July 1753

By Letters from Lieut. Pennington we are informed that he is on his march with the Detachment under his Command to Tanjaur whither the Major has ordered him to proceed and to be from thence conducted to Camp by the Kings Elephants

Although it is very evident from the whole Tenor of M.r Dupleix's Conduct that his Views are to acquire the Power and consequently that it is not very probable he will suffer himself to be diverted from his Plan by Treaty, yet that it may appear to our Sovereign we have always been ready and desirous of restoring Peace to the Country, the President proposes to the consideration of the Board whether it may not be adviseable to send M.r Dupleix a short Letter acquainting him that it appears to us a Matter beyond Doubt that whilst our Servants Companies support different Princes in the Country their Disputes can never terminate, that tho neither of us have any Right to conclude we may yet so far influence as to establish Tranquillity on Terms advantagious to both Companies and that we are ready to concur in any proper Measures for that Purpose, which the Board approve as they do of the Draught of a Letter to that Effect now read, & order'd to the French Correspondence N.o 1.

Tho.s Saunders
Charles Boddam
Henry Lawes
Wynch
Tho.s Smith
Chas Brooke

Fort St George August 1753

At a Consultation Present

Thomas Saunders Esq.r Gov.r President

Charles Boddam Henry Bonney

Alexander Wynch John Smith

Charles Bourchier

Saturday the 1st

General Letter from the Deputy Governor &
Council of Fort St David read as follows

To the Honble Thomas Saunders Esq.r
President and Governour &c. Council of
Fort St George

Honble Sir & Sirs

In our Letter of the 27th Instant we
acquainted you of a Report we had of the Enemys being on
their Side the Coleroon with intent to proceed to besiege Devecotah,
the Deputy Governour has laid before us this morning a Letter
he has since received from Mr Dawson, in one of which he is
apprized by a Gentleman at Portonovo that their Design is
certainly so, the other contains a Return of the Garrison of
Devecotah as likewise of the Enemys Strength. They were
preparing Rafts for crossing the River, we therefore expect daily
to hear of their further Undertakings. We take Leave to refer
this Circumstance to your Consideration and acquaint you
that we cannot take upon us to give the Detachment Orders to
march until we have received your positive Directions for as
the Enemys Body of Horse will doubtless be immediately af-
ter them, we apprehend it would be attended with inevitable
Danger. We are sending away the Dragon Sloop to Devecotah
with such Arms and Stores as we can supply Mr Dawson
with and as he has requested as he can raise one hundred Sea-
poys we have recommended him so to do, if he finds the Defence
of his Garrison requires it. All the Arms we had or Store

for

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Fort St George August 1753

for Seapoys being Servd out, we request a further Supply of one thousand, five hundred Hands of which as soon as possible

We are with Respect Honble & Sirs

Your most Obedient Humble Servants

Rich.d Starke
Thomas Cooke
Dancourne Drake
Robert Hoper
Peter St Paul

Fort St. David
30th July 1753.

Copy of the Letters above referd to

North.d Sir Dancotah 27. July 1753.

I am favourd with your Letter of the 25th accompanying a Packet for Major Lawrence

The Enemy are still encampd close on the other side of the Coleroon River and have several Boats but not as yet made any Attempt to cross over, tho' it's probable they will after this new Detachment sets forward for Trichenopoly if it is only to cut off the Communication between that Place and this. It is reported there Sowcarrs of about 300 Europeans and Coffreys, 10 Guns, 2000 Seapoys & 2000 Horsemen Here. I have continually Horcarras in their Camp but can get no Intelligence to be depended on, some say their Design is to come here, others to Attack us Wholly. Could it be the Service as many Seapoys as you can get let me have with some Gunners would be very serviceable likewise two or three Good Gunners we not having one that knows how to point a Gun.

I am with Regard North.d Sir

Your most Obedient Hum.e Serv.t

George Dawson

To Richard Starke Esq.r

Inclosed is a Return of our Garrison by which you will be better able to judge of the Force

Fort St George Augt 1753

Worshl Sir

The Enemy have to day been preparing for crossing the River by fetching Boats to make Catteimarans &c

A Gentleman from Porto nouvo writes me their Design is certainly to besiege this Place and that they are receiving Stores from Pondicherry for that Purpose, besides Guaurds one a Coop is set out from that Place with Land Boats by four Rounders, & is hourly expected

The Portfield has been very near our Road but driven back by strong Gusts that were from the Mouth of the River I am in hopes she will be able to reach us to morrow morning and land your Detachment I have got Coolys and Bullocks ready for their march to the Mayor and could have arms raise one Hundred Seapoys

Pleas to favour me with your Opinion of the Enemy's Design as it will be of great Service to me in ordering measures for their Reception

I am Worshl Sir Your most Obedient Servant

George Dawson

Devecotah
28 July 1753
To Richard Starke Esqr

The President Lays before the Board two Letters from Mr Starke, in one he acquaints the Arrival of the Portfield at Devecotah and that Captain Ridge's Detachment had been safely landed there, in the other he mentions that he is informed the Enemy do not seem to have any Design upon Deve Cotah by their separating and going some to Nouvaspettam, others to Tirumalee and that it is reported their Design is to go to the latter

Upon which Advice the Board are of Opinion that as it is uncertain what may be the Enemy's particular Design though in general there is Reason to believe their Intention is to harrass & plunder the Tanjour Country & perhaps to make some Attempt upon Devecotah if the Succeeding against that Place should appear practicable to them, & all which Circumstances Major Lawrence's Counsels must enable them

to

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Fort St George August 1753

To form a more clear Judgement than it is possible to do how it is Agreed that the Disposal of Captain Ridges Detachment be referd entirely to them and a Letter from the President to that Effect is now read and approvd, Copy whereof follows

To Stringer Lawrence Esqr

Fort St George 1st August 1753

Sir

The last Advices we have receivd from you are the 16th Ulto. Mr Starke writes from St David that Morare with a Party of the French were on the Banks of the Coleroon, supposd with a Design to cross it and harass the King of Tanjours Country and that the Detachment under the Command of Captain Ridge were landed from the Portfield at Devecotah, therefore we have thought it necessary that you be consulted whether best for that Command to join you or whether by adding a Body of Horse to them they would not prevent the Incursions of Morare and secure the King of Tanjour to the Nabobs Interest

The Elizabeth is arrivd here

Inclosd is a short Letter to the Nabob and one to the King of Tanjour which of you approve please to deliver I am Sir Your most Obedient Servant

Thomas Saunders

The Presidt also lays before the Board two Letters from him one to the Nabob the other to the King of Tanjour acquainting them that being informd Mr Dupleix's Conduct is disapprovd by his Superiours in Europe, he judgd this a proper time to bring about a Peace and had therefore wrote to him on that Subject

Thos Saunders

Charles Boddam

Henry Lascelles

P Pigott

John Smith

Fort St George August 1753

At a Consultation Present
Thomas Saunders Esq Gov Presd
Charles Boddam Henry Bonney
Alexander Wynch John Smith
Charles Bourchier

Monday the 13th

The President Lays before the Board the Country & Military Correspondence

Letters from the Nabob, King of Tanjore Abdul Bob Cawn and Washadawa Pundt in Salabat Jungs Camp are read; the three former contain nothing new, the Latter gives Account that Salabat Jung having under Colours of Devotion carried his three Brothers, Nizam Ally, Sydee Sheriff, and Mir Moyd with them to a Place where his Relations are interred, on their Return halted at Doulet abad and having persuaded them to go into the Fort to take a View of it caused them to be shut up and confined there, but afterwards released the youngest Mir Moyd, that it was reported he was moved to this by a Suspicion that some Mischief was plotting between Nizam Ally and Mons. Bussy the French Officer, over whose House at his Return he placed a Guard. That Mons. Bussy was arrived at Golconda from Motelepatam intending to go to Salabat Jung who sent him word it would be time enough after the Monsoon. That Jungs Affairs continued in great Confusion at Dolly and that the Morattas had taken Guzarat

The Letters from Major Lawrence received since last Consultation are as follow viz.

Viz. N°29

We are now joined by the King of Tanjore and Tondaman's Troops the former expects great Willingness to move whilst I hope to do shortly as Pepington will be here, I have sent

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Sent to hasten hes March 120 Lascars, 60 Coolys & 20 Ma-
rooky Men who will soon extricate them out of the Difficulties
he meets with in crossing the Rivers, when he arrives I shall,
immediately march & joyn his Battalion in Tricheropoly with
all the Expedition that is possible and if any thing extraordina-
ry occurs on the mean time you shall be acquainted with
it. I am Sir, Your most humble Servant
Canandgre Coliel S. Lawrence
27 July 1753.
The Honble Thomas Saunders Esq.

Sir N°30. Camp at Coyandore Coliel Augt 1. 1753

Mr Byrington joined me with the Detachment this
morning. I propose to give the People two days Rest and
then march towards Tricheropoly.

I have not been favoured with any of your Letters
since the 1st of July. Mr Pabb will acquaint you with
a perfect State of our Affairs. I think I need not to enlarge
here. I shall always endeavour for the best and will give
you Notice of every Occurrence when it can safely be entrusted
in a Letter. The Enemy are on their Ground as I
am informd.

I am Sir Your most Obedient Servant
To the Honble Thomas Saunders Esqr. S. Lawrence

Camp at Alwar Augt 2d 1753

N°31 Sir

I was last Night favourd with your
Letter of the 23d July. We marched here this morning. The
Enemy were attacking a Fort about three miles off but retird

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on our Approach and lost some men.

You acknowledge my Letter of the 5th Inst. without taking the least Notice of what I think a material Paragraph in it, That which requests some Gentlemen of the Council may be sent to carry on a Negotiation. I have not the Leisure nor Inclination to enumerate how many times I have represented my Incapacity to transact Business that does not immediately relate to the Command of the Troops &c. I have said from Time to Time and other Places is recorded and it will appear you have nominated me to manage Things I had before positively refused to meddle in. If any misfortunes should happen to the Interests of our Honble Masters from this Practice I can no ways be blamed, but this is a melancholy Observation. Tis my Duty to point out what appears most agreeable to promote the Publick Welfare, I have constantly done it and once more repeat "That as the Gentlemen who were "sat with you in Council have from the Beginning of the War "been joined with you in the conducting of it, they are most able "to negotiate a Peace to Advantage". Therefore request that two of them may be sent as soon as possible to Sangoor. In regard to myself, my long Absence from the Presidency, my Ignorance of the Several Interests of which I have at most always been kept in the Dark and above every thing my constant Attendance on the Army, a sufficient Employment for all my Attention renders me entirely unfit to act as a Minister. I would never be thought to pretend to more than I know, tis for this Reason I have ever refused and now refuse to concern myself in any thing foreign to the Orders I received when I took the Command, which were to assist the Nabob against all his Enemies. Let me add that I will pay a strict Obedience to any order you think fit to send me for the future, but beg it may be worded in form and not in Cypher. I hope I have now exposed myself clearly

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clearly, for Gods Sake) let us make no more delays but unite in our several Stations to help forward the Common Cause, the Gentlemen of Council have too much Zeal not to offer themselves voluntarily for Service or Preheminency if the Publick Good requires it

I have wrote you that Monsr de Landamant have joind the Nabob, which will surely make some Alteration in his Affairs. They all flatly refuse to comply with the H^ble Mr Pitt knows all these Things and I should be glad of his Opinion since you stick to what was said in the General Letter of the 4th Inst.

We shall endeavour to throw a large Quantity of Provisions into Trichenopoly. Mr Maunsel has your Bill on the King of Tanjore for Rup^s 1200. I shall order Captain Dalton to give on his Accounts which I dare still turn out exact, tho not only ungenerous but villainous to make the Company a Perquisite at any time.

As we were in great Want of Ammunition before Coppingtons Arrival, I was obliged to borrow two Candys of fine Powder from the King of Tanjore which I promised should be repaid as soon as possible. I must request you'll give Orders about it.

I have sent an Order to the Commanding Officer of the Detachment from Madura to continue at Dindigul as it will be impossible for him to get here in time to answer any Purpose, besides I think he will be of more Use there.

The Honble Thomas Saunders Esq^r

I am Sir Your most Obedient Servant
P. Lawrence

In respect to the Major's last Letter, as he seems to think that some Alterations may be made in the Nabobs Affairs by the Junction of Monsr and Landaman with him, who all refuse to comply with the Proposals of the H^ble Mr and upon this desires Mr Pitt's Sentiments since we stick to ours

Fort St George August 1753

In the General Letter of the 4th Inst Agreed that Mr Call
be desired to give his Opinion on the following Queries viz

Whether he thinks the Nabob has any means of re-
paying the heavy Expences of the War or of reimbursing the
Company the large Sum he already stands indebted to them

Whether in the Measures proposed in the Letter of
the 11th May for the negotiating a Peace any Alterations
or Additions appear to him necessary to be made that may
be of more Advantage to the Nabob or his Allies consistent
with the Company's Interest, such as may reasonably be pro-
posed to the Daloways

Whether the Proposal made by Mr Lawrence of
sending two of the Members of the Board to Sanjore to
negotiate a Peace is so essentially necessary since all that
appears requisite on that head has been already mentioned
in the Letter of the 11th May and the Major has been since
further wrote the 23d Ultimo as follows "In regard to the
"11th what seems to be most wanting is the Nabobs Resolution
"of which we have already wrote very largely

Whether Peace is not the best Plan to pursue
and in regard to Military Operations whether the present
Measure is not to fling a sufficient Store of Provisions into
Trichinopoly and for the Army to march to the Northward

The Secretary is directed to send the foregoing
Particulars to Mr Pitt & desire his answer on making

Captain Dalton at Trichinopoly writes that
the Myssoreans having taken Possession of Wayeonda (which
he had been obliged to abandon on the Major's March to Sanjore)
and encamped a Part of their Army under the Walls, he ordered
on the Night to attack them and having got within twenty
Yards of their Tents undiscovered, he made a Brisk Fire, drove
off a good deal of Plunder and retired without losing a Man, the

not

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next day the Enemy decampd. That the French have retreated into Ayringam Pagoda and are transporting all their Artillery and Baggage thither, the Marattas have likewise past the River and are gone to the Seven Pagodas which have disconcerted the Dalavay's Designs how to quit the Place, he is now encampd about four Miles from the Fort. That every day Cannot does not furnish one farthing towards defraying the Charges of the Garrison so that the whole now falls upon the Company

Tho: Saunders.

Chas Boddam

Henry Bonney

Alexr Wynch

John Smith

Chas Bourchier

Monday the 20th

At a Consultation Present
Thomas Saunders Esq. Gov. Presd.
Charles Boddam Henry Bonney
Alexander Wynch John Smith
Charles Bourchier

The President lays before the Board the Country and Camp Correspondence, amongst the former is a Letter from Abdul Rob Cawn at Arcot advising that Velour Khouldar with a Detachment of French Troops and some

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Tows from Gungee & Chittepet is besieged Immensely which is already reduced to great Distress, desiring a Party of Men may be sent from hence to its Relief

In answer whereto the President wrote to him the 18th Instant that he would chearfully grant all the Assistance he is able but that his Abdul Rob Cawn puts it out of her Power by receiving & detaineing the Rents of those Districts the Nabob has given Orders on for the Company's Debt and even stopping the Tropoly Money, which if he would obtain Assistance he must send immediately

Captain Pigou at Arcot writes to the same effect as Abdul Rob Cawn in relation to Trinomaly which he apprehends will inevitably fall into the Enemys Hands unless relieved from hence, he adds that Part of the Nabobs Force having been recall'd from Tripaty to attempt the Relief of Trinomaly has given Mahmat Camaul an Opportunity to take the former Place and that Abdul Rob Cawn positively declares unless he is assisted from hence he shall not be able to maintain his own Troops any longer especially if Trinomaly should fall as that will put it in the Enemys Power to destroy the Country all around, and that he thinks that Place might be preserved with a few more Men Leave to employ them

Which Circumstances being considered the Board are of Opinion that the Men we have now in Garrison are not more than necessary for the Defence of the Place and therefore that it is not prudent to send out any of them on Detachment, that tho' the Loss of Trinomaly may be attended with bad Consequences, the preservation of Arcot is much more essential, the President is therefore desirous to write Captain Pigou that we cannot spare any Men from hence but that if he thinks the assisting Abdul Rob Cawn with ten or fifteen Men he advancing for their Expences will not too much weaken his Garrison and by no means of preserving

Trinomaly

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Fortunately he may do so, acquainting him at the same time that our latest Advices from Fort St David say that Morarow with 2000 Horse, as many Shapoys and 300 French had moved from Chellumbrum to Verdachalum and that it was doubtful whether his Intentions were not for Trinomaly or Arcot. That if this should prove true he must not spare Abdul Rahman any Men as it would only endanger the latter & be of no Service to the former Place.

Captain Lin at Changleput writes that he is advised from Madras that 300 French, 1200 Shapoys and 100 Horse were on Motion from Pondicherry. That their Aim is against Changleput but that the Repairs & Alterations he had made in the Fortifications is such an Addition of Strength that with a few Artillery he has ordered for he thinks he Can handle against any force the Enemy can bring before it.

Major Lawrence writes as follows.

Lr N°32. Camp near Tiruvengadu 10 Aug.t 1753

My last Letter to you was from Alloor from whence we marched to Dalaway's Choultry with an Intent to deceive the Enemy and draw their whole Force that way which they very readily gave into. Unfortunately it rain'd for three Nights successively so that I could not put my Design in Execution of going round Arcot from the west Morning, but was obliged to take the Opportunity of a fair Afternoon on the 7th to get from amongst the Paddy Fields and to march to a Colloy Fort within four Miles of the Sugar Loaf Rock. Some Shapoys and Marattas attacked our Rear but were presently repulsed. We halted on the 8th at the Rock encamped. In the mean time the Enemy shifted their Ground and seemed fully determined to oppose us by throwing themselves constantly between us and

Fort St George August 1753

the Fort, thus a Battle was absolutely necessary and I went to Disposition for it accordingly by placing the English Forces in the Front and Dividing the Allies both Horse & Foot on the Bodies to protect the Rear. In this Order early in the Morning of yesterday we advanced directly towards the Enemy intending to strive at gaining the Enemys Flank & obliging them to Shift their Ground, as we did not doubt but they must strange situated. When we were within Cannon Shot while they were employed in firing briskly at us, instead of wasting to return it we filed off to the left & perceiving that the Golden Rock was only guarded by Sepoys, I ordered Mr Byrington with his Peons and the Front Division of our Sepoys to run and get Possession of it which they luckily effected, tho the Enemy finding their error Neglect run too as hard as they could, and the Marattas made some desperate Pushes. Here the Cannonade became General for as the Horse almost covered the Plain we brought them down in great Quantities by a constant Fire from nine Guns. The Europeans gained a Bank very near us which enabled them to play upon us with four Pieces of Cannon. But the Smart kept with the Battalion to cut off the Communication with their Camp when abandoning their Allies and all together they run away to the tune as fast as they could and were exposed on their Turn to four Guns I left under the Golden Rock which killed them many. Men. If Monagee's Horse had rode in upon them they might have cut them off, but I must do the Tanjoreens the Justice to acquaint you that they protected the Baggage as they were ordered & kept at a Distance the Marattas which confirms my former Opinion that they are the best Horse in the Country. Our Loss in the Action would have been inconsiderable if Mr Kirk who commanded the Grenadiers had not been killed; In him the Company has lost a faithfull Servant, a brave Officer and a worthy Gentleman, one whom I may say

they

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they will find it difficult to equal. At Porto Nova was no Water at the Golden Rock and the Men were greatly fatigued & did not care to stay there but came to Trichinopoly with the Prowesses the Enemy could not carry away all their Camp so that our Cavalry are continually bringing in Slaves from it and the Communication with Tondamans & the Tanjour Country is quite open. We can perceive a few Tents among the Rocks beyond Allahore where they shall not remain in quiet for any long Time. The Hand of God has been very visible in this Success in giving us the Advantage over Enemies who outnumbered us greatly in our very particular besides having it in their Power to chuse their own Ground. The Nabobs Affairs seem on a manner retrieved by it, The King of Tanjour will be firm in his Interest and it is not impossible but the Dalaway may be recall'd as it was his Conduct is censured at Seringapatam. They'll send him no more money. If this will make any Alteration in regard to the H^ble I shall be glad of your Opinion and Orders. For my part as I don't hear your Debates in Council my Knowledge of Affairs is too much confin'd to give you my General thoughts All our Gentlemen desire their Respects to you.

I am Sir Your most Obedient Servant

The Honble Thomas Saunders Esq^r J. Lawrence

The following is an Extract of a Letter from Mr Starke to the President dated the 13th Instant

"I am glad that the Major concurs with "me that it is best to keep the Detachment under Captain Ridges "Command at Devicotah where they may prevent Incursions "into the Tanjore Country as conveniently this way of Pearson requires. Which after advising that neither the Nabob, King "of Tanjour nor Tondaman will comply with the H^ble he had "given his Opinion what steps would be most advantageous to

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"take; Peace in my Opinion is to be chose, but how to obtain it
"without the Consent of the aforesaid Persons I know not, Upon
"perhaps may hit upon some Expedient & be able to bring it
"about

Mr Pitts Answer to the Queries ordered on the Fortifi-
cation to be sent him for his Opinion is as follows

To Mr Secretary Bourchier

Sir

Agreable to the Directions of the Governor
and Council I very readily offer my Sentiments on the different
Articles contained in your Letter of yesterday & Date I am sorry
I was better qualified to give them on a Subject of this Import-
ance

In Answer to the 1st The Junction of
Monagee & Sendamagee may possibly make great Alterations
in our Favour, Success at Trichenopoly may oblige the King of
Mysore to become more moderate in his Demands, & in the end
Bartazarow's Promises, that our Allies have placed their Hopes on
as already Bulwarow has shewn how little he is to be depended
on (to make it doubtfull what his Resolutions may be ones
if he does come) and as the Circumstances of Affairs will alter
daily, They no doubt will alter their Measures accordingly &
approve of the 1st when they are convinced that nothing better
can be done though at present they are very averse to the Neigh-
bourhood of so powerful a Prince

2d The Nabob has certainly no means of supporting the
heavy Expence of the War or even that of his own Family and
therefore no hopes can be formed of his reimbursing the Company
so far from it, their Expences must encrease as the whole Carna-
tic of Trichenopoly will for the future make a part of it

3. I cannot think of any Alterations or Additions to be
made to the General Letter of the 11th but what the Mayor Good

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or bad Success will make necessary

1st As Major Lawrence declines negotiating with the Nabob, it is certainly necessary that proper Persons should be appointed unless it could be done at Madras with Pencatram, which I should think would be most eligible for an Affair of this Consequence cannot be concluded on without the Approbation and Acceptance of the President and Council, tho' at the same time a sudden Turn of Affairs at Trichenopoly may require a sudden Expedient, in such a Case it may be necessary that some Measures should be immediately adopted on the Spot.

If Nabob cannot avoid the being determined to hostile Conclusions by the English, he has no other Recourse.

3 Peace on all Accounts in my humble Opinion is the best and noblest Plan to be pursued and nothing will contribute more, least than a Quantity of Provisions in the Fort, for whose this is effected, Nandiraujee finding his immediate Views obstructed will probably be glad to embrace Terms less hurtful to the Nabob's Interest & Major Lawrence will be at Liberty to march to the Northward before the Monsoon.

But after all, was the Nabob even an quiet Possessor of the Province, it is so desolate & ruined that a small Sum would not enable him to pay off the Company's Loan and the Country will always be liable to fresh Invasions, another strong Reason for the Accomplishment of the 1st of May, & yet Trichinopoly is a Place of so much Importance as to be on all Accounts the last Expedient.

Fort St George
16th August 1753

I have &c.

Your most Obedient & Humble Servant
Robt Palk

The Board having well weighed the present Circumstances of Affairs and considered Major Lawrence's Reasons and Mr Starke & Mr Palk's Sentiments & them are of Opinion that Peace is what we should most desire at present

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to obtain and that the greatest Advantage which can be made of the Major's late Success is to bring it about with the Subah by and perhaps on better Terms in consequence of which Opinion a Draught of a Letter from the President to the Major is now settled and is as follows

To Stringer Lawrence Esqr
Commander in Chief of the Company's
Forces in India

&c &c &c

Sir

I have received your Letters of the 27th ultimo 1st 3d & 10th Instant to which I shall now reply. What Advices we receive concerning the Country Government are constantly transmitted you; The Mogul is besieged in his Capital Salabat Jung has imprisoned two of his Brothers, has Masulipatam & have taken Guzarat and it is expected will soon be in Possession of Surat; The French under the Command of Mr Bussy are said to be at Golconda and are endeavouring to get orders for Vellour, Rajahmundrum, & Chicacole, in which if they succeed, from Cape Comorin to Point Palmeras Mr Du plaix will command. It is said Balazarow has accommodated his Affairs, in short the whole Empire is in so distracted a situation and their Interests so variable that it is impossible to fix any Resolution concerning them that can be depended on a Month.

Mr Starke writes that Morarow is removed from Chellambrum to Tardaculum, but 'tis as yet uncertain whether he intends the Rout of Trincomaly, Arcot or Tritchinopoly. Abdul Rob Cawn seems apprehensive of the former and he now thinks of retreating.

Captain Ridge's Detachment continues at Devecotah, his Disposition seems well adapted for the present being a Security into the Tanjore Country or to move Northward

or

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to Southward as Occasion shall require

Mr Dupleix has returnd an answer to my Lett
he evidently evades the Subject I wrote him on and on the cont
it declares his Readiness for an Exchange of Prisoners and all
that the Nabob last year made them that if he had been his ene
Master he should have delivered them up. Please to desire the
Nabob to write me positively whether he did or not and acquai
him that Abdat Rob Cawn has sent us part of the Depty
Money, tis very necessary he should order him to desist from
such Proceedings

Agreable to what you wrote this Letter is sen
from Cuddore, Enclosed is Mr Pallis Cornion and we request yo
on this Point viz.

That the Nabob does not now as able to defray o
Expence according to his Agreement, he is already largely in
arrs and the running Expence is so considerable that I don't
how the Company can support it

Whether we shall continue to carry on the War
this manner or whether a Peace with the Dalaway on which we
Alby the King of Tanjore to be included is not at all Events the
properest Measure and the Nabobs late Success puts him upon
upon a better footing as you remark by the Dalaways being mo
cut with Expence and Disappointments which may probably in
him to listen to reasonable Terms.

On your acquainting us that the King of Tanj
had made an Offer to be a Mediator between the Nabob and Dal
that we might facilitate as Peace so much desird we immediately
sent Powers with such Instructions as occurrd to us necessary to
you & Mr Pall who were on the Spot and had the pleasure
received your Letter acquainting us that you would promote it as
much as possible. We are very sensible that your Command

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to alleviate your fatigue, therefore on your Letter mentioning it
we immediately thought of the most probable Expedient to relieve
you, in that of the 11th you have our ~~next~~ Sentiments of what
we really imagin'd the Dalonays Demand would be and on
that of the 13th and subsequent one what his Vakeel said on the
Occasion and the Difficulty that remain'd to be surmounted in
maturely weighing this Affair we were of Opinion that it could
with more Ease be negotiated here and accordingly you had
inclos'd Copy of the Letters to the Nabob and Dalonay on this
Occasion. We still continue of this Opinion and expect Power
for that Purpose which we conceive makes it not absolutely
necessary that any of the Council should proceed to Tanjore
as you propose. Yet possible your Success or a sudden Turn of
Affairs may present you an Opportunity which may be greatly
improved we therefore should be extremely oblig'd to you if any
such lucky Occasion should offer that you will open the Nabob
on to make Proposals to the Dalonay though none but on what
his Allies are included. Probably the Dalonay finding Trichi
nopoly reliev'd and his continual Fee Success may be inclined
to accept a Sum of Money to be paid at a stipulated Time for
which Madura & Tinnevelly may be given as Security. Mr
Palk informs me the King of Tanjore said he would be bound
for twenty five Lacks.

We have furnished the King of Tanjore with
Arms, Saltpetre &c and directed Mr Starke to repay the two
Candy of Gunpowder.

The Junction of Monsieur Fondamore &c with
me hope gave a favourable Turn to the Nabobs Affairs, possi
bly the Enemy will judge any Attempts on Trichinopoly not
favorable to their Thoughts on the Coast Provence, which is
at present almost defenceless, their Monsoon approaches when the
Rivers will be swell'd and the Country overflow'd so as to make

It

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the March of an Army with a Train & Large Baggage
attended with great Difficulties and Delays the Northerly
Winds will set in which will render a Passage for Troops by
Sea impracticable, the Inclemency of the Weather will prevent
but whether the Enemy will think it Worth Pursuing or not
uncertain, these Considerations render it necessary that we keep
a Force as possible of Ourselves should the Enemy on the South
apply with the greatest Expedition as the Communication
now open, the Nabob and his Allies must be so sensible of
the Consequence of this that we don't doubt of their forwarding
it, and therefore will inculcate the necessity of doing it, this
once effected you will be at Liberty to prevent any Attempts
of the Enemy to the Northward when after providing for the
Security of Trichinopoly Supporting the King of Tanjore
your present Force necessary as it is reasonable to conclude the
Enemy will attempt something on which they must certainly
succeed if they should be no Force to obstruct them, Please to
advise us what Provisions are already made what may more
be flung into Trichinopoly and your Opinion of the Steps
to be taken afterwards.

Colonel Scot is embarked for Bengal taking
Visagapatam in his way, after making the Plans for the
Fortifications at Bengal will return to us in January or
March.

We are to thank you for your Zeal on this
Occasion and particularly for your Conduct in the last Engage-
ment, We hope to see the Military Reputation of the English
soon revived on this Coast and the Benefits to our Honble
Masters Affairs flowing. We are sincerely sensible
of the Gallant Behaviour of the Officers in general, Please
to make my Compliments to them with Wishes for a Continuance
of your Success & am with Esteem Your most Obed. Servant

Fort St George 1st August 1753

The President also lays before the Board a Letter to him from Mr Dupleix which is entered in the French Correspondence N.3 wherein he evades the Concept proposd wth Peace and introduces what has passd in relation to an Exchange of Prisoners.

In answer whereto it Drought fit to Letter is now settled as entered in the French Correspondence N.6 wherein the several Particulars in Mr Dupleix's Letter are replied to and the Subject of Peace again proposd.

Thos Saunders
Chas Boddam
Henry Powney
Wm Wynch
John Smith
Chas Bourchier

At a Consultation Present
Thomas Saunders Esq. Gov. Presd.
Charles Boddam Henry Powney
Alexander Wynch John Smith
Charles Bourchier

Monday
the 27th

The President lays before the Board
the Country and Camp Correspondence which are to the following
Effect

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Effect

The Nabob Anwarudy Cawn gives an Account of the Action the Major relates in his last Letter and seems from thence to flatter himself with very sanguine hopes of soon seeing his Affairs in a prosperous way as the King of Tanjour & Tondeman are joined in his Interest and have promised to supply the Fort with Provisions in regard to the following Queries & Particulars in the Governors Letter to him viz^t whether he is able to support the Expence of the War? Whether he can bring a sufficient Force to the Field against the Enemy? Whether he has made any & what Agreement with the King of Tanjour and Tondeman and upon the whole recommending to him to conclude a Peace with the Dalaway; he answers that he is not able to support the Expences of the War because the Mysoreans, Morattas & Circars have ravaged the Countries that would have supplied him with the means & by the Junction of the King of Tanjour & Tondeman Forces that now a sufficient Number of Horse, and as to regular Troops he thinks with due Assistance he has a Force of Europeans & Artillery superious to any on the Country that he has made no Agreement with Tondeman who has proved false through Friendship but that he has agreed with the King of Tanjour to give him Madura & Tinnevelly by way of Mortgage on condition the Dalaway be brought to Terms of Peace through his means & the King of Tanjour is to use that ends to procure Carour & Dindigul &c Districts which formerly belonged to Tondemandy but are now in possession of the Mysoreans to be restored to the Crown That as to Peace with the Mysoreans he cannot settle it there but negotiate with the Dalaway being at war with him & that in treating to mortgage the Tondemandy Country but not the Fort for Satisfaction of the Dalaways Demands and desires that Affairs may be negotiated on these Terms at this Place with former

The King of Tanjour has entertains great hopes of future Success from the late Victory & expects to soon take

and Pelyana on our Assistance; which he says he is induced to do
afraid the Nabob with his whole force and as Morarro is on the
Borders of his Country ready to enter it, he desires our return of
our Troops to protect it as on that depends the supplying Trichi-
nopoly with Provisions

Lorimaan writes that he is ready to act agreeable
to order

The following are the Letters received from Capt
Jno Lawrence since last Consultation

Sir N°32 Camp at the five Rocks 12 Aug.t 1753

I have received your Letter of the 31 July with the
several Inclos'd and have very little to add to what is already
said on the Subject of our Affairs.

We came here to day with an Intent not only
to destroy the Enemy but to cover Provisions going into the Fort
Herculeon is surrender'd to Monoge so that we possess all
the Parts on the East Side of Trichinopoly

I am Sir Your most Obedient and most
Humble Servant
J Lawrence

The Honble Thomas Saunders Esq.r

Sir N°34 Camp at the five Rocks 18 Aug.t 1753

A Volunteer of the French came to Trichinopoly as a
Deserter while I was at Innandave Cahill, who was prov'd about
four days ago to be a Spy Sent by Mond Dumas the Com-
mandant to debauch the Soldiers & surprize the Fort I have
the Men whom he had been tampering with discovered himself
in consequence of the Nabob's Directions he was this day executed
He confess'd his Scheme was to let out the French Prisoners &
cut every Englishman's Throat He told himself Bengal treasure
du Marquis Dupleix viz a Pardon he gave one of the Deserters

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in our Service and said he was to have a Lieutenants Commiss
and 30000 Rupees if the Thing succeeded I shall make a
strict Enquiry after others whom it is prudent to suspect tha
by Deserters have come over to us within the last Days

The Rains have incommoded us greatly Even
dered the Paddy Fields so soft that no Carriages can pass over
them, however we made shift to cannonade the Enemy on the
Camp with an eighteen Pounder, and a few days of fair Weath
may bring about a prosperous Event when the Dalavay
hope will be brought to Terms supportable to the Nabob an
King of Tanjore

I have received your Letter of the 8th with the
enclosed which I delivered. You will know that I have long
since order'd Captain Ridge to remain in the Neighbourhood
of Devecotah. Morarow has sent a threatening Letter to the
King of Tanjore and says Mr Dupleix will order him to
his Country if he does not quit the Nabob. Mr Monsey is
at Meer Hassake and all are determin'd to push the Dalaw
with the utmost Vigour

I am Sir Your most humble and most
Obedient Servant
The Honble Thomas Saunders Esq. S. Lawrence

In regard to the Nabobs Letter the Co
are of Opinion that the Terms on which he empowers us to
are such as will by no means be accepted by the Dalaway b
it is in fact giving him nothing as he well knows it a difficult
Matter to collect any of the Revenues without being in Poss
of the Fort and on that Account rejected the same Offer whe
it was made him before, besides this Proposal of the Nabobs
of a piece with his former evasive Conduct and evidently
tends only to amuse, for as in the same Letter he says he
agreed to mortgage Madura and Tinnevelly which are the

Fort St George August 1753

most valuable Part of the Trichenopoly Country to the King of Tanjour he cannot again pledge that whole Country to the Mahratta without deceiving the one or the other. For these Reasons the Board are of Opinion that the Nabob's Letter does not afford sufficient Matter to enter on a Negotiation with Tencatroo the Mysore Vakeel as he desires with the King of Tanjour and Proposal to the Mahratta claim and therefore require an Explanation, and as the Major intimates that another Engagement would probably very soon happen the Event of which may change the face of Affairs the Agreed to wait till fresh Advices are received from Camp before any further Resolution be taken.

Tho: Saunders
Geo: Stevenson
Henry Seaver
W Lynch
John Smith
E Bourchier

29th The President this morning received a Letter from Captain Pigou at Arcot an Extract whereof follows

"The Nabob again desires me to repeat that unless he has more Assistance he cannot supply you with Money, ten or fifteen Men will be of no Service to him but if you will please to permit me to send an Officer and Party

Mem

N° 304

Fort St George August 1758

„Men, Provender will be wanted, if not it must fall a Sacrifice
„to this Enemy together with the Troops who have so bravely
„fended it, and the Force I mention can be spared without
„Risque to this Place — Be assured Sir this Step and no
„Sir shall never persuade me to act contrary to your Orders
„and that I would not urge you to relieve Tranquebar if I
„thought Arcot was in any Danger.

Which being immediately communicated to
the several Gentlemen of Council they were unanimously of
Opinion for the Reasons given in last Consultation that it
improper to comply with what Captain Pigou writes upon
as his present Opinion with regard to the Security of Fort
and the Sufficiency of the Garrison is very different from h
former Sentiments on that Subject. The following Letter
the President was therefore with the Concurrence of the Coun
sent to Captain Pigou viz.t

To Captain Benjamin Pigou. Fort St George 29th August 175

Sir

I have received your Letter of the 27th
is very inconsistent with Sense before that I can at a Loss to
count for it, in your former you represent the weakness of y
Garrison and after sending you about fifteen Europeans, all
could spare, you still could have dispensed with more and
now tell me an Officer and thirty Men with one Company
Sepoys might be sent without endangering the Place, the
fatal Accident that attended Captain Sanderson's detachme
Mr Smith with a small Command, Captain Chace's leavi
some at Trivady and Captain Dalton at Sreehumpaty a
Instances so fresh that they should deter necessity, such fre
Reasons in future, acquaint Abdul Rob Cawn that I sho
be glad if we had force to protect the whole Province but

Fort St George August 1755

have not and therefore must regard how Pass would be
of the most Consequence; Inasmuch being refused might be
of Service but the hazarding the Life of Coral, by reducing the
Garrison to fifty men should any Accident happen to the
Command, is by no means prudent; You will therefore do
before write you make the Guards of Coral your own and
and keep your Force collected as the present Circumstances
Lately requires it, and as you say the former Detachment
will be of no Signification you will send none as more cannot
be spared.

Endorsed are two Letters to Abdul Rahman
from Sumpetroon and Putazee Pant, tell him to send the
Rents of Tripaty which he promised to do

I am Sir

Your most Obedient Servt
Thomas Saunders

At a Consultation Present
Thomas Saunders Esq Gov. Presd.
Charles Boddam Henry Bourne
Alexander Wynch John Smith
Charles Bourchier

Tuesday
the 1st September

The President lays before the Board
a Letter from the King of Tanjaur and three from Major Law-
rence.

In the first the King of Tanjour
says that he has made no extraordinary Agreement with
the Nabob nor will make any without our Knowledge

The Letters from Major Lawrence are as
follow

Sir N 35 Camp at Alleloor 23d Augt 1755

Finding the Enemy never too strong for us

506

Fort St George September 1753

to be attack'd in Front I decamp'd early on the Morning of
yesterday and march'd round the Rock, till I took up a Post
in their Rear which intimidated them so much that they
struck their Tents in Confusion and retired to Moota Chelavoy
by the Riverside. We advanced this morning to their Ground
and shall use all possible Methods of distressing them. In their
hurry they left behind an old round Pounder, which being the
only one we have here, besides a Coehorn, and a good deal
of Ammunition.

We can perceive Morarow with his Army near Pe-
chundah. I have never had the least Notice of the Step of this
from Devacotah. My last Letters were dated the 11th and the
Letter nine days on the Road when Mr Dawson told me it was
said Morarow designd to go to Tanjore. I have ordered Capt
Ridge with his Party to join me, provided every thing be
quiet in his Neighbourhood.

I am oblig'd to mention the necessity there is of
having somebody at Tanjore, and if none of the Council there
go, let me beg that Mr Pabb may be sent as soon as possible.
I need not mention the great Service he has already done me
this year, we shall never be able to put a sufficient Quantity of
Provisions into the Fort unless somebody is present that will
spur the King on to advance the Nabob Money. Three Days
will certainly ruin every thing. The Coleroon must be pass'd
by Boats so that Morarow will be detained for some days.

To Hon^ble Thomas Saunders Esq^r — Your most humble and most
Obedient Servant
P Lawrence

N°36 Fort — Camp at Tekuri Sept^r 25 Aug^t 1753.

I wrote you from Aleaur that the Enemy

Fort St George September 1758

had taken Post at Moatacheloor where they have cutt
down the Paddy Banks and overflowd the Country so
was no getting to them Part of Morarow's Horse have got
the Coleroon with a hundred Sepoys Europeans, & a Gun
too informs me. If they leave no more Capt.n Ridges Detachment
will still give us the Superiority in the Field. Yesterday a
Party of ours consisting of three Platoons, a few Seapoys &
two Guns who were sent as an Escort to Tschenapoly were
charg'd on the Road by fifteen hundred of Hyder Naigues Horse
from Wayconda but after losing several Men and Horses they
thought fit to retire and left their dead on the Plain. Such
successful Attempts must intimidate them greatly

I should here this morning for the convenience
of being supplied with Provisions and to cover the Convoys from
Tanjour. The Enemy will give us no Chance for a decisive
Action and it will be better to attend to things of more Mo-
ment than running about after them; besides as Hoogo
Horse don't scamper about like the Marattas we are forced to
protect our Bullocks with Parties of Foot

A Tschenapoly is acknowledg'd on all hands
to be of the utmost Consequence to us I think the Supplying
it with Provisions ought to be no longer neglected, and if the
King of Tanjour wants the Will and the Nabob the Power
of advancing Money for this end Don't you imagine it will
be safer and better to do it ourselves than to maintain
a large Army liable to Accidents at a great Expence on
no other account but merely to protect this important
Place from becoming an easy Prey to the Daloway Let us
reflect that now four months are elapsd since Smarokar's
ifs Relief, that the Arcot Country and even our own Settle-
ments are exposd and that properly speaking Affairs are
not much forwarded since my Arrival because I had no money
to

Fort St George September 1753

to advance for the purchasing of Rice and paying the Soldiers &c. the other hand if the Place was supply'd for twelve months I could move into the Neighbourhood of Chellumbrum & relieve the Nabobs Affairs in those Parts Besides I am convinced the Dalaways sole Dependence is on their gaining a Battle while there is not a sufficient Quantity of Provisions in the Fort and if this was removed he would despair of succeeding and consequently give over his Attempt

I wont be now impertinent to speak a word or two of the 11th What Security have you that Tancatrow can make good any Promise or that it's ever in the Power of the Dalaway to do it If we must treat let it be on such Grounds with the Fort full of Provisions then every thing will appear in its true Light By Treaty Delays are brought on, Delays enlarge Expences and the heaviest Purse carries it I am entirely ignorant of what has been transacted with Tancatrow but if I am to judge from the Dalaways Behaviour when he received your last Letter desiring him to give his Vakeel full Powers, He is Little inclined to Peace. He returned the Hircar Vakeel from tell me he was extremely angry and would send no Answer, he likewise threatened he would cut his nose off if he had not come with a white Flag I desird no more Messages

I shall add one word more perhaps it may be objected that the Company has already been at an Prodigious Expence and what I now propose must increase it, to this I answer that the Rice will sell for more than it costs and if we depend on Treacherapoly to reimburse us it will be prudent to put it out of Danger. To morrow I'll send you an Estimate of the Expence & let me beg your Opinion & orders as soon as possible for the Monsoon approaches which will put it quite out of my Power to write to You.

I wont fail to solicit the King of Tanjour but his Delays may ruin us for which reason I can promise

Pay

Fort St George September 1763

no Dependence on him.

Pleas to make my Compliments to the gentlemen
of Council. I am Sir Your most Obedient Servant
To Honble Tho. Saunders Esq. P. Lawrence

№ 37 Sir Camp at Tucker's Tope 26th Aug. 1763

Inclos'd is the Estimate I promis'd, you see
the amount for twelve months is about two Lack of Rupees out
of which Money the Rice must be purchas'd. I hope we shall have
Parsimony must be made use of to cause the least Delay as it
will encrease Expences in the End, of not bring about the Ruin
of every thing.

I have solicited the King of Tanjore in
the most prefsing Terms I will give you instant Information
of the Success of my Letters. I mean if the Money is advanc'd
for I have ever look'd on words to be only the Shadow of Shew

P.S. I have not heard from you lately I am Sir Your most Obedient Servant
To the Hon'ble Thomas Saunders Esq. P. Lawrence

In regard to the Consequence of Fortifica-
tion and the Expediency of supplying it with Provisions
which Major Lawrence says he thinks ought to be no longer
neglected, the Board are entirely of his Opinion and have
been so from the Beginning as that and that only was the
motive for the Army's marching to the Southward and if
there has been any Neglect, the frequent Letters from the
President wrote with the Concurrence of the Board praising the
Accomplishment of that Point will convince that they are
not chargeable with it more especially as the Major had Leave
to Draw for what Money he wanted, but whatever unlucky Circumstance

may

Fort St George, September 1763

may have retarded their Affair be very obvious that what ever
pass'd at present is the want of Money and as it is very evident
the King of Tanjore will always be as backward as possible in
furnishing the Nabob either with that or Provisions on expectation
or that we shall supply him with the means to purchase the
latter it is Agreed that Mr Palk be prevailed on to return to
Tanjour agreeable to the Mayors Request with Instructions to
press the King in the most urgent Terms to use no more
Delays but furnish the Fort at once with as large a Quantity
of Paddy as he can collect and if notwithstanding this Instance
he should still find him backward in his Endeavours or unable
in that case to draw on us for what money may be wanted to
purchase the necessary Rice in Tondaman's Country or elsewhere

Tho: Saunders.
Chas Boddam
Henry Bowney
John Smith
Chas Bourchier

At a Consultation Present
Thomas Saunders Esq[r] Gov[r] President
Charles Boddam Henry Bowney
Alexander Wynch John Smith
Charles Bourchier

Saturday
the 8th

The Secretary acquaints the Board that agreeable to

Fort St George. September 1753

Resolution of last Consultation he had apply'd to Mr Pitt and endeavour'd to prevail on him to go to Tanjore as he was requested but that he declared it and at the same time told his Opinion that the Business to be done there may as well be transacted by any one else as he nothing but to press the King to furnish Provisions and send Carriage for the same to Pondicherry

Read a General Letter from Major Lawrence

Trichinopoly 29th August 1753

Honble Sir & Sirs.

1st I have a Letter from the Perdaul wherein he acknowledges the Receipt of several Letters from me dated the 27th Ulto 1st 2d & 16th Instant I have likewise addressed others to him which I hope are come to hand dated the 12th, 18th, 23d, 25th & 26th Instant As there is a great variance contain my Sentiments of Affairs I must request you will order the same to be read over to you that all Reputations may be answered as possible be visited and I will now add what further occurs to me intending the whole to serve as an answer to Mr Saunders's Letter of the 22d Instant

The Distracted Situation of the whole Mogul Empire makes it necessary that we turn our Thoughts in part what to act on what concern these Provinces If Mr Dupleix gains the Perod you mention from Salabat Jung I don't see what Signification it can be of while the Title of both is liable to be disputed. Nay it would have been easy for him to have obtained it two years ago if he had thought it worth asking for

I hope Captain Caillaud is well advanced on his March agreeable to my Orders, though I have no Intelligence that he is set out As this Detachment was designed for acting as Occasion should require at a moments Warning I am

Fort St George September 1753

am sorry their Battle was stopt in the middle of the Month which Capt Pascal informs me brought on a Mutiny. Now proceed to tell you Gentlemen that a General Discontent ensues every where I have ever it observed when the Workers whom you appoint Chiefs of Forts instead our Captains, order out Parties, and command the Military as they please without consulting the Officers their Proceedings if not just a Stop be must put on the Cause of our Honble Masters Affairs. Alas! I have too long felt in my own Person the unhappy Effects of such usage

The Answer from Mr Dupleix is such as I expected the Nabob who positively denies he sent for us is not his own Master must write to the President and Abdul Rob Comes

The Presidents Letter is free from Expletive but to what Purpose? I see no positive Orders to determine Resolutions Gentlemen Gentlemen who will be answerable for all these Delays I'll tell you I'll give no Opinion you ask it upon, though I desire some of the Council may be sent to Sea you evade it. I'm sensible to the meanest Capacity that a Treaty may much sooner be concluded here on the Presence of all the Principals, than by Letters from a Vakeel who has not yet shewn full Powers and who even if he had them could never Determine in order to gain Time till he hears from his Master. And I would ask you who is so fit to represent the English as two of your own Body, when the Affair is at last referd to Fort St George the Members there present at the Board will be the Acting Government and can proceed to the Execution of every thing in the same Manner as though no one Member was absent

Mr Pitts Sentiments agree exactly with mine but they are not decisive, how can they when I am ignorant how far the H[d] can be satisfied. I have spoke of this elsewhere

I submit Mr Pitts 5[th] Paragraph and my Letters of

&c

Fort St George September 1

the 25th & 26th to your serious Consideration. We have only 6
months Provisions in the Fort. Condaman and his Army
Tanjour have stopt their Hand so that if we dont receive
the Rice ourselves we are certainly forbidden for the Bearers
and I am convinced it is what they want. My Opinion of the
Steps to be taken after the Fort is supplied is if we can get
to march before Chillumbram. but if the Season is too far
vanced then to secure our Soldiers in Winter Quarters after
which I am determind to appear at the Council Board
I am quite tired of so much Writing to so little Purpose

The Nabob is always ready to make Proposals to
the Daloway if you'll send him your Directions but what
has done hitherto has only serv'd to make the Daloway
more insolent.

It will appear that since I came into
the Country I have ever been for promoting Peace and if you
can effect it do in the Name of God. Let it not be said that
I oppose you. I wonder my Answer which was formerly approved
and desired should now be so strenuously sought after. Sure
if is not with a Design to expose me a second time. I shall
never submit to that and indeed I feel my Strength & Spirits
decay so sensibly that I fear in a little time I can be of
Use no where however Bengal may be for spending my last
Breath in the Service of my Country and our Honourable
Masters.

To The Hondble Thomas Saunders Esq.r President & Govr & Council of Fort St George.

I am Hondble Sir & Sirs Your most Obed.t Hum.l Servt
S.t Lawrence

Although the Board are of Opinion that the Ad
jor's Letter is wrote throughout in a Stile & Spirit which cannot
reasonably have taken its Rise from any thing in the Correspond
ence or Management of Affairs here, yet in consideration of his
Publick

Fort St George September 1753

Publick Service, tis thought prudent to let it pass unnoted rather than by an ill timd Warmth on their part stir up the Embers which having for some time disappeard it was hopd had been extinguishd and this they are the rather induced to as the Letters on both Sides will on a candid Perusal speak for themselves. The Board therefore having deliberated on the Contents of the Nabobs Letter and the present Circumstances of Affairs are of Opinion

1st That the Nabob having declarid himself (and tis no doubt) be intirely incapable of defraying the Expences of the War, if it be continued, that burthen must fall entirely on the Company, since the King of Tanjore is either unable or unwilling to contribute to it;

2d That the Nabobs Debt to the Company is already very large & by continuing the War will in a short time become extremely grievous without any hope or Prospect of ever being dischargd unless the dispute be peaceably settled in the present instance, as Event there is but little Reason to form any sanguine Hopes of seeing it, so long as the French, Mysoreans and Morattos are in League, or even whilst the former have any Power left to disturb the publick Tranquility, a Power they have at present a sufficient Force in these Parts to exert and may should their Affairs require it strengthen by recalling the Detachment with Mr Bussy.

3 That notwithstanding what Major Lawrence mentions in his Letter of the 25th Ulto of the Dubashys Mean Behaviour and Threats to the Messenger who carried the President's Letter, whence he concludes him averse to an Accommodation, there is great Reason to believe a Peace may be concluded with the Mysoreans upon giving up Trichinopoly as his Vakeel here has declared to the President and further that his Master

Fort St George September 1st

(who desires to treat privately Lest the French should take the
Wage) will in that case agree to pay the Nabob, one half
of Money and pay his Debt to the Company.

4th That if it were probable the Nabob could on the Coast of
peaceably settled in the Government both of the Southern poly
and Arcot Countries it would be advisable by all means to
support him agreable to our Alliance with the Circumstances
would then be in his Power to reimburse the Company Lest the
Aversion of the French to Peace the seeming determined Resolu
of the Dalloway to possess Trichenopoly be the Expence attend
it will, and the Inability of the Nabob thus Allies to support
the Charges of the War not only render his maintaining those
two Countries doubtful but even make it precarious who the
he may ever possess either so long as his Forces are divided for
the Protection of both, a Request too great (if it can with prudence
be avoided) to adventure so much more of the Company's Money
upon as must in that case be advanced and if either of those
Countries must be given up for the Preservation of the other
there needs no Argument to prove that it is the Company's Interest
the Arcot Country should be secured.

5 That should Trichenopoly be given up and the Dalloway by
that means attached to the Nabob's Interest and become an
Ally to him and the English, the Company's Investment
at Salem and the circumjacent Places in or bordering on the
Trichenopoly Country and Mysore Dominions which at present
is greatly impeded and probably may in future suffer more
will not in the least be affected.

6 That notwithstanding what is aforesaid if the Nabob stand
contrary to all Persuasion obstinately persist in not giving up
the Fort of Trichenopoly to the Dalloway it will still be the
Company's Interest to support him to the utmost Extremity

nd

Fort St George, September 1753

not only in prospect of being reimburs'd what the Company are
in advance on his Account but because the withdrawing our As-
sistance would inevitably bring on his Ruin, the Consequence of
which would be that the Great Country would become a Prey to the
French and the Company be excluded from any Investment
there

That upon the whole the proposed Measures to be taken on the
present Circumstances of Affairs are to draw as large a Supply of
Provisions as possible into Tschenapoly and that the Major have
Leave to draw on us for that Purpose which being effected may ren-
der an Accommodation with the Dalloway less difficult That
a proper Person be sent to Tanjore to invite the King to exert
himself on this Occasion & from thence proceed to the Nabob with
Instructions to lay before him a full State of his Affairs to re-
present to him the Company's inability to support the Expences
of the War and to urge to him in the strongest Terms the ne-
cessity of his consenting to the Cession of Tschenapoly on the
Conditions proposed by the Mysore Vakeel or better if they can
be obtained, in case nothing else will content the Dalloway &
his Menequin

Resolv'd

That Thomas Cooke Esq^r be appointed to take upon
him that Charge, and

Ordered

That Instructions to him be prepar'd for that purpose
empowering him also to treat with the Dalloway on the afore-
said Terms if Occasion should offer, and that a General Letter
to Major Lawrence be also prepar'd in answer to the several
Particulars in his last and acquainting him of the present
Resolutions. It is also Agreed that in future the Correspond-
ence with Major Lawrence be to and from the President and
Council

The President acquaints the Board that the

Vanguard

Fort St George September 1755

Noquedahs of the King of Pegu's Ships had again applyed to
him on their Masters Name to be dispatched alledging their
grows Cato and they were order'd to return before the Last of
Candles for which they have purchased sundry Cloaths &c
Necessaries here and are apprehensive they shall not arrive in
time if detain'd here any longer besides their Freights but
protested against them for all Damages that might happen
from a further Delay

Resolv'd That as they press for their Departure they have
leave to sail but that as no Advices have yet been received of
Hunter's Success the two Palankeens prepared as Presents for
the King and Appo Razah be not sent on the Kings Ship
as was intended but reserv'd for a future Opportunity of the
Shall be thought proper upon the News that may be received
from the Negrais

Draught of Letters from the President to the
King of Pegu and Appo Razah having been prepared are now
laid before the Board and approved

Thos Saunders
Henry Bonny
P Wynch
John Smith
P Bouchier

Fort St. George. September 1753

At a Consultation Present
Thomas Saunders Esq. Gov. Presidt
Charles Boddam Henry Powney
Alexander Wynch John Smith
Monday
the 10th Charles Bourchier

The President lays before the Board the Country & Military Correspondence

The Nabob on answer to what the President desired Major Lawrence to acquaint him of viz. "Mr Dupleix alledges that the Nabob last year wrote him that if he had been his own Master he should have delivered up the Prisoners says that he never wrote to Mr Dupleix at any time and that it would be inconsistent for him to write in that Manner as the French are actually his Prisoners. That there is a Man on the Enemy at Velour famous for counterfeiting Signatures and Seals who may probably have done this

Captain Dalton at Tuckenapoly requests to be relieved from the Command of that Place, encloses an Account Current of the Charges of that Garrison for the Mos of July and August amounting to Rs 21727 6 whereon a Ballance of upwards of 2000 Rs is due to him and advises that he is under a Necessity of drawing on us for more Money for the Charges of the two next Months

Resolved that Captain Dalton's Request be complied with but in regard to his request to be relieved that Major Lawrence be desired to acquaint him we cannot immediately grant it as he is capable from his Knowledge of the Country of being more serviceable than any other Officer and that we expect he will continue to exert himself

A.

Fort St George September 1760

The Nabob having assigned over the Property Revenues to the Company towards the Discharge of his Debt to them out the annual Coast held at that Place drawing near where Duties are collected We Agreed that a Party of forty one Europ and two hundred sixty four Seapoys agreeable to a Return produced be detached from this Garrison and proceed to their post viz that Fauzdar Abdul Bob Cawn can add not any to of Captain Pigous Seapoys & from thence march into the Country to protect it from the Insults of the Enemy during the Coast and until the Revenues are collected which are to be remitted to this Place.

Draught of a General Letter to Major Lawrence now read and with some Additions thereto approved & Sign whereof follows.

To Stringer Lawrence Esq
Commander in chief of the Company's Forces
in India

Sir

Your several Letters mentioned in yours of the 29th are come to hand, the last to you was the 22d Inst. received as well as what sent you are constantly proceeded on as and entered in our Generate Proceedings; For the greater Expe tainly the President desires the Correspondence may be from and to the Governour & Council so that you will constantly address us as we shall you

We shall now reply fully and give you our Sentiments on the Situation of Affairs as you are a Mem ber of the Board agreeable to the Company's Orders we shall acquaint you with every thing that occurs and be glad of your Opinion which we shall digest with as much and then pursue the measures we judge most prudent, if from any Circumstance that may intervene such measures should not concur with your Sentiments we are responsible for them

Signed

320

Fort St George September 1753

Should Mr Dupleix succeed in getting Sunnads for the Rajahmundrum & Chickakull Countries farewell to our Trade on those Parts, as there is no European Force to oppose him and if his Scheme on this Province should take Place, our Honble Masters Settlements on the Coast of Choromandel would be of little Value as he would govern from Cape Comarin to Pagoda, we have but too great Reason to believe his Views extend even further and the more encouraging Prospects he lays before his Principals the more force they will send him to secure his Acquisitions and prosecute his further Designs which must end in our Ruin.

When Captain Ridges Detachment was order'd to continue at Devecotah it was judg'd unreasonable they should receive Batta as the Company's Garrison, it was therefore taken off as we think we can omit no opportunity to endeavour to lessen that exorbitant Expence which we labour under, &c. when marching their Batta commenced again, Mr Wyatt informing us he had every thing ready As we had always found Mr Dawson's Conduct satisfactory we did not how should give any Reasons for Complaint, We shall enquire into it and if we find him culpable remove him. It is our constant Rule to employ the Company's Servants in such Branches of their Affairs as we judge them proper for, Devecotah is a Loosing Settlement and we are afraid ever will be, the Ground is let to Farm, there is no Manufacture to be set on foot there but what must interfere with St David's that when we consider any Advantages that might arise with the Duty advantages they must consider they are entirely cancell'd &c. Mr Pybus's Removal from thence Mr Hopkins was appointed to succeed him but is not yet arrived, therefore Mr Dawson continues to transmit us the Accounts & to execute such Orders as he may receive from us or the Gentlemen at St David which must be obeyed.

Yours

Fort St George September 1755

You are well acquainted with the melancholy Circumstances that occasion'd your March to Tschenapoly & cumstances that we hope will happen no more. On your Expectation from S.t David you was supply'd with a large Sum of Money & you the Liberty of drawing on us for what you might further have occasion for and transmitted you several Bills from time to time. Mr Pitt said there was no further Occasion as you could for what wanted from thence. It was a pleasure to us to hear from you that Tondaman had joined and assisted on the Coast Point of Pennuny Provisions into Tschenapoly, and that was greatly encreased when you wrote that the King of Tanjore had vigorously into the Alliance; which the Threats of the French and Morattos had for a long time entimidated from greatly to the Nabobs Misfortune for had he ever been himself in December what might not have been expected the Dread of the Loss of Tschenapoly at last would then from the Injunctions We still received a further Satisfaction on hearing from Mr Pitt that he contributed largely to the Save of Tschenapoly and from the Nabob that he had engaged to forward no less than 20000 Pollams of Paddy for that Purpose, nor had we any Allay to this Success till your Letter of the 25 August. We were in hopes from the Accounts we have received that every thing would have been soon accomplished but as we find Difficulties arise we must endeavour to overcome them, therefore desire you will lay on the Provisions as expeditiously as possible and draw upon us. The King of Tanjore's Vakeel promises us the Master will furnish 6000 Pollams of Paddy, as it will take up a considerable time to bring this from Tanjore it would be better you received of him the Amount in money. We have applied to Mr Pitt who not thinking his presence necessary returns going

Our constant Endeavours have been to forward Pagoda, this was encouraged by the Nabob last year, he sent his Vakeel to

Fort St George September 1753

to Mr Dupleix who was deaf to all Proposals often repeated
haveing been the Letters to the Dalaway to bring about an Accom
modation but to no Purpose, his views centerd on Exclusive
poley, this the Nabob absolutely rejected. When you acquainted
us with the King of Tanjours Proposal of being a Mediator
though we doubted his Sincerety and by Letters afterwards
found we had reason for it, We invested you and Mr Palk
with full Powers to treat, furnishd you with Instructions for
that head, advisd what the Mysore Vakeel said on the Subject
gave it as our Opinion that the Affair rested with the Nabob
and desired you to intimate to him the necessity of it. We
had the Pleasure to hear that these Orders reached you and that
you were endeavouring to negotiate the Affair and afterwards
were informd by you that nothing could be effected in Camp
then endeavourd at it as it was ours and Mr Palks Opinion
it could be much better done here. The Reasons are that You
and Mr Palk found it impossible to transact it in Camp,
that the Nabob himself writes that it cannot be done there,
that the Dalloway who is approaching and the French should be
immediately acquainted with it hence by the Vakeel to any
State secretly and as you observe on your letter of the 29th
the Affair must be referd to us. The very same Reasons pre
vail in regard to yr sendeing two Councellors for if you and
Mr Palk could effect nothing what they do. However that no
thing may be wanting being sensible that your Concert
must engross your Thoughts and Time and as you desire to
be excusd from such Commissions we have appointed Mr
Thomas Saunders solely to transact it and furnishd him with
Instructions though we think it necessary he should go to Camp
as Paymaster; That the Transactions may be as secret as
possible he will communicate to you the Instructions. When
we consider the large Expence that has been going on ever
December last and our inability to support it we think Peace

absolutely necessary and as the Mysore Vakeel has received
Letter from his Master with proposals either to receive the
Money due from the Nabob or
promises large Advantages, we still continue our endeavours
that that Affair rests with the Nabob and desire you will
urge to him the Necessity of it. This Affair should be conduc-
ted with the greatest Circumspection so as not to give Um-
brage to our Allies who thought Jealousy might prove
more destructive to the Nabob.

What Orders Circumstances would admit we
have given you viz! with the greatest Expedition to have
Provisions into Trichinopoly, to support the King of Tanjore
and if Circumstances admit return to the Northward. You
are sensible that even these depend so much on your own &
the Enemy's Success and Motions a Change of which may re-
quisite a change also in measures that in this case we
must desire you will act as your Judge for the Good of the Service

Our Honourable Masters will we are assured allow
them a just Regard to the Merit of those who exert themselves
in the Service. The present Situation very particularly re-
quires of us and we hope will be successful. We are very
sorry for your Indisposition from which we wish you a speedy
Recovery.

Captain Dalton in a Letter to the President has
desired to be relieved. As the Knowledge he must have acquired
of the Trichinopoly Country and Fort and of every other circum-
stance necessary to its Defence will enable him to be more
serviceable there than any other Officer we can think of, we
cannot immediately comply with his Request and would have
him continue to exert himself in his Command.

In the present Circumstances of Affairs we think
it more convenient the Nabob's Family should reside at
one of the Company's Settlements than at Trichinopoly, we

Thanjore

Fort St George September 1758

to Mr Duplaix who was deaf to all Proposals. Often repeated have been the Letters to the Dalloway to bring about an Accommodation but to no Purpose, his views centerd in Exclusive poley, this the Nabob absolutely rejected. When you negotiate with the King of Tanjaure Proposal of buying a Mediator though we doubted his Sincerety and by Letters afterwards found our fears just, We towards you and Mr Pitt with full Powers to treat, furnishd you with Instructions for that head, advisd what the Mysore Vakeel said on the Subject gave it as our Opinion that the Affair rested with the Nabob and desired you to intimate to him the necessity of it. We had the Pleasure to hear that those Orders reached you and that you were endeavouring to negotiate the Affair and afterwards were informd by you that nothing could be effected on Comp. Then endeavourd at it as it was ours and Mr Pitts Opinion it could be much better done him. The Reasons are that Clive and Mr Pitt found it impossible to transact it in Council, that the Nabob himself writes that it cannot be done there, that the Dalloway who is apprehensive the Tyrant should be immediately acquainted with it comes by his Vakeil to negotiate secretly and as you observe in your Letter of the 29th the Affair must be referd to us. The very same Reasons prevail in regard to not sending two Councellors for as you and Mr Pitt could effect nothing what they do. Moreover that sending may be wanting, being sensible that your Council must engage your Thoughts and Time and as you desire to be excusd from such Commissions we have appointed Mr Thomas Caile solely to transact it and furnishd him with Instructions though we think it necessary he should go to Camp as Paymaster, that the Transaction may be as secret as possible he will communicate to you the Instructions. When we consider the large Expence that has been flung on us since December last and our inability to support it we think Clive

absolutely necessary and as the Mysore Vakeel has received
Letter from his Master with proposals either to renew the
Money due from the Nabob or
promises large Advantages, we still continue our endeavours
that that Affair rests with the Nabob and desire you will
urge to him the Necessity of it. This Affair should be transac-
ted with the greatest Circumspection so as not to give Um-
brage to our Allies who through Jealousy might pursue
measures destructive to the Nabob

What Orders Circumstances would admit on
have given you will with the greatest Expedition to have
Provisions into Trichinopoly; to support the King of Tanjore
and if Circumstances admit, return to the Northward. You
are sensible that even these depend so much on your own or
the Enemys Success and Motions a Change of which may re-
quisite a change also in measures that on this case we
must desire you will act as you judge for the Good of the Service

Our Honourable Masters will no doubt always
shew a just Regard to the Merit of those who exert themselves
in the Service, The present Situation very particularly re-
quires it of us and we hope will be successful. We are sorry
for your Indisposition from which we wish you a speedy
Recovery.

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serviceable there than any other Officer we can think of we
cannot immediately comply with his Request and would have
him continue to exert himself in his Command.

In the present Circumstances of Affairs we think
it more convenient the Nabob's Family should reside at
one of the Company's Settlements than at Trichinopoly, we

Thompson

Fort St George September 1753

therefore recommend it to you when you return with the Army to prevail on them if possible to accompany you to St David

The Gentlemen at Fort St David have advised us that some of the Salem Merchants have long had a Quantity of Cotton on hand provided for the Company's Account but that they cannot venture to bring it down because of the Dangers in the Way from the Enemy. We cannot perfectly judge how far it may be in your Power to remove the Difficulty and therefore only recommend it to you if it can be done to give them an Escort either now or when you march Northward, or what other Assistance you can

We are Sir your most Obedient Servants, Thomas Saunders Charles Boddam, Henry Powney, Alexander Wynch, John Smith, Charles Bourchier

Thos Saunders.
Geo: Stratton
Henry Powney
A Wynch
John Smith
C Bourchier

At a Consultation Present
Thomas Saunders Esq Gov. President
Charles Boddam, Henry Powney
Alexander Wynch, John Smith
Charles Bourchier.

Wednesday the 12th

The President Laid before the Board a Letter

Fort St George September 1753

Letter to him from Captain Schaub at Cuddelore, sentencing the Secret Correspondence No 7 acquainting him that the French have by art and unfair Means induced & enticed away thirty men of the Battalion Peons there, that Mr Dupleix has prohibited them all Commerce with the rest of his Soldiers and he has been forced Means to get a Letter to him assuring him of their unalterable Attachment, he adds that being confined on board of Some he proposes to write again the next day by the means of a Dane when he will give a Detail of the whole Affair

The Board having considered the Contents of Captain Schaubs Letter are of Opinion that as he promises to write again and to give a full Relation of the Circumstances of this Affair the Knowledge of which may be material in forming a Resolution it is proper to wait the Arrival of the Promised Letter

Draught of a General Letter to Thomas Cooke Esq to serve as Instructions for him to negotiate with the Nabob, Rays of Tanjore & Dalloway is now read and approved and is as follows

To Thomas Cooke Esq

Sir

Being determined by all possible means to promote a Reconciliation between the Nabob and Dalloway though Mr Lawrence and Calle advised us they found it impossible to effect any thing yet we are come to a Resolution to make a further Trial and have fixed on you for this Commission you will therefore proceed to Camp with Expedition use ing the King of Tanjore on your Way and that you may be able to execute this Trust with the greater Facility We give you the following Instructions

The King of Tanjore has not only joined the Nabob but has engaged to furnish 30,000 Gallowes of Paddy to be put into Sherengapatty he has as yet

Fort St George September 1753

yet made but a slow Progress in fulfilling this you will therefore
spare him one and as the Carriage of such a quantity of Grain
from Tanjore must be attended with great Trouble and Length
of Time, if you could prevail on him to pay the Equivalent in
Money it would better answer the purpose, you may at the same
time assure him of our Truest Attachment to him, that we
shall always regard his Interest as inseparable from our own, we
enter into no Engagements without his Consent & Knowledge
with this is a Letter to him purporting that you are sent by us
to negotiate our Affairs.

We give you Full Powers to confer with the Select
concerning the necessary Steps to be taken to conclude a Peace
and to do the same with the Dalaway, the Letters now deliver
you signify the same to them, and that you may have a perfect
Knowledge of this Affair, we think it necessary to tell you what
has already passed and our Sentiments thereon.

The Dalaway has seemed averse to treat or been
positively intimidated by the French or thinking their Knowledge
of it might be of Disservice to them but on conversing with his
Vakeel here he expressed a strong Desire for it & has since acquai
the President that he had the Dalaways Orders to propose on
being paid the Money he advanced as being put in Possession of
Trichenapoly, and of the latter, he would draw off the Morattos fo
the French who with himself were to join the Nabob, while the
in the Arcot Province enter into a Secret Alliance with him &
further would pay him a considerable Sum of Money and tha
he would also enter into a Friendly Alliance with the King of
Tanjore.

The Nabob thought the Situation of his Affairs ha
been frequently laid before him and our Inability to support th
Expence, wishes as much as possible coming to the Point and wra

the

Fort St George September 1763

Mr President that he gave him a Power to settle Affairs with the Dalaway Nayer but not the Districts belonging to Tschenapoly and not the Fort, till the Money be paid. We are of Opinion the are Terms the other will not accept but that with Tschenapoly would be satisfyd. and in return grant the Nabob several advantages though nothing ought to be left to his Discretion.

If contrary to Expectation the Dalaway were to be brought to accept a Mortgage of the Districts belonging to Tschenapoly as a Security for the Payment of a certain Sum to be settled and agreed on in full Satisfaction of all his Demands on the Nabob & thereupon consent and engage to draw off the Moratta from the French and return to their Respective Countries we recommend to you the prosecuting such an Accommodation, But if he is not to be satisfyd with any thing less than Tschenapoly the terms on which the Cession of that Place may be consented to are these

1st That he commence his Agreement with the French and enter into an Alliance with the Nabob to settle him in his Government

2d That he draw off the Moratta from the French and engage him to enter into an Alliance with the Nabob to settle him in his Government

3d That he defray at his own proper Expence the whole Charge of the Mysore and Moratta Troops

4 That the Payment of the Nabob's Debt to the Company be secured and that such a further Sum as the Parties may agree on be paid by the Dalaway to the Nabob

5 That the English King of Tanjore & Tondamanebo included in this Alliance and act as Guarantees for the Performance of the Treaty which must be signd by the Contracting Parties and if either of them shall at any time

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... them infringe it he is to be deem'd an Enemy by all the rest

6 That all the Parties do jointly use their Influence to promote a Peace with the French.

7 That if either of the Parties be attack'd, the rest shall support him, the party attack'd defraying all Charges

8 That until the Dalaway shall have fulfill'd whatever is herein before Stipulated to be done by them the Fort of Trichenopoly shall be garrison'd by English Troops, but so soon as the Nabob shall be peaceably settled in the Great Government and the Dalaway shall have accomplish'd what is before Stipulated on his part to be performd, the English Troops shall then evacuate the said Fort and put the Troops of the Mysore King in full and quiet possession of the same

You are not on this Affair to act as a Principal but Mediator, the great Expence the Dalaway has been at Lots of Men and Horse and a Store of Provisions being sent into Trichenopoly will necessarily make the Dalaway ready to come to Terms, the Difficulty lies with the Nabob, he always procures rates and flings the Weight on us which we are not able to bear you will therefore put him in mind of the Friendship and Regard we have shewd him and remonstrate to him in the Plainest and the Strongest Terms that however great our Attachment is to him we can no longer support so large an Expence, that it is ungenerous of him to desire our Ruin and tell him sincerely upon all Accounts to come to an Accommodation whilst Affairs allow of it for should ill Success attend him and the Fortune of War is ever precarious / it will then be impossible and he must be entirely ruin'd

These People are extremely jealous therefore the greatest Secrecy and Circumspection is necessary that no Umbrage may be given to our Allies, especially the King of Tanjour

Fort St George September 1763

Though we entrust you solely with the Conveyance of
you will acquaint Mr Lawrence with every thing that occurs
and he as a Member of the Board will give you his Opinion
You will write to us constantly Wishing you a Safe Voyage

Sir

Your affectionate Friends
Thomas Saunders
Charles Boddam
Henry Bonney
Alexander Wynch
John Smith
Charles Bourchier

Fort St George
12th Sept: 1763.

The President also lays before the Board Draughts of
Letters to the Nabob, King of Tanjore and the Dalleway on the
same Subject which are approved and entered on the Country
Correspondence

Thos Saunders
Chas Boddam
Henry Bonney
Alex Wynch
John Smith
Chs Bourchier

Fort St George. September 1753

At a Consultation Present
Thomas Saunders Esq^r Gov. President
Charles Boddam Henry Bowyer
Alexander Wynch John Smith
Monday Charles Bourchier
the 5^th

The President Lays before the Board the following Letters viz^t

From the Marquis Dupleix N 8 Lr in answer to that wrote to him the 22^d Ult^o wherein he says he has already clearly stated every particular and a Repetition would be needless That he has received the Approbation and Orders from his Court as well as us; That he should be glad the President would communicate to him the Opportunity by that of sent of restoring Peace, that he might acquaint the Prince of Decan of it and act agreeable to his Desire

In reply to which the Subject of a Letter is now agreed on and ordered to be prepared acquainting him that he mistook the Sense of the President's last Letter in regard to the Principles we act on which is on Orders from our Court but the meaning is Orders from Court, Gazeddy Cawn Salabat Jung That the Opportunity of restoring Peace to the Provinces which he desires may be communicated to him is nothing more than leaving Gazeddy Cawn in the quiet Enjoyment of the Subahship of the Carnatick agreeable to the Grand grandfather and that the King of Tanjore be not molested which being once agreed on as a Basis any Differences between him and the Nabob may afterwards be adjusted and we shall be ready to use our Influence to reconcile them

Captain Pigot at Arcot writes that Mahomed Bob Cawn has at last persuaded his People to march to the

Relief

Relief of Tirinomaly and that it is reported a large Detachment of Sepoys is come from Trichenopoly to join them.

Captain Lin at Changleput writes that the Country about that Place is much posterd with the Enemy, that about 1500 of them having surrounded about seven miles from there by a Stratagem gave them a false Alarm upon which they dispersd and returnd to the several Forts they were drawn from

Tho: Saunders
Geo: Boardman
Henry Brooke
Wm Lynch
John Smith
Wm Monckton

16 The President received a Letter from Captain Pigou at Arcot, advising the Arrival there of Ensign Holt with his Detachment, that he shall detain them there till he receives further Orders as none of the Nabobs Troops who are all gone to the Relief of Tirinomaly can join them, and he is informd Mr Lawrel Carnaults Force at Tripaty is considerable, consisting of nine hundred Horse, two thousand Sepoys, exclusive of Polegars and eight Guns with Europeans to work them, that Abdul Wah Cawn thinks it will not be prudent to send the Detachment without his People who cannot join without abandoning Tirinomaly and earnestly intreats that that Place may be relievd before the Party marches to Tripaty

Monck

Fort St George September 1756

Which being communicated to the Gentlemen of Council the President with their Concurrence wrote the Answer to Captain Pigou that he had already requainted him by Letter that the French had sent a Reinforcement of fifty Europeans Soldiers to Tranquebar & therefore it would be only exposing Europe Troops Detachment to send them further for should they first go to Tranquebar it would afterwards be too late to proceed to Tripatty. That Matanood Cawauls Force is not so large as is represented to them and consists only of Matchlock Sepoys. That the Renter of Tripatty renders the Pay and 2000 Rams will immediately pay our People. That if Abdul Rob Cawn will pay Europe Troops they must proceed immediately to Tripatty, otherwise they must return directly to Tranquebar.

At a Consultation Present

Thomas Saunders Esq Gov President
Charles Boddam Henry Powney
Alexander Wynch John Smith
Charles Bourchier

Monday the 21st

General Letter from Thomas Cooke Esq read as follows.

To the Honble Thomas Saunders Esq
President and Gov & Council at
Fort St George

Honble Sir & Sirs

I am this day honoured with the receipt of your most distinguished favour under date the 12th Inst containing your Commission and Instructions for my proceeding Camp in quality of a Mediator for perfecting a Peace between Nabob and Tanjore; I cannot but esteem this as the highest

Fort St George September 1755

of your good Opinion and as such am beholden to you for your best Endeavours shall not fail to be exerted in negotiating the affairs agreeable to the several Terms you have recommended to my Observance. Most after the many fruitless Efforts which have been already made by Major Lawrence and Mr Pitt whom it must be acknowledg'd were greatly my Superiours for such an Undertaking, I cannot help begging Permission of making this general Confession. I see not the least Inducement whereby I can flatter myself with the least Thought of Success. For as the Nabob has always appear'd averse to the Principal Point insisted on I mean that of parting with the Fort of Trichinopoly it is not to be doubted but his reasons are very material and such as render it much to be feared he will ever be inflexible and deaf to all Representations that can possibly be made on that head. Unless by a Motion of the Troops this way he is sensible of the absolute Necessity for hearkening to it. As this is the Chiefest Difficulty not to be surmounted I have taken the Liberty of offering it to your further Attention, to the End, if other Measures than what are prescribed to me are found necessary, they may be seasonably taken. And though I have many more Reasons that lead me to the greatest Despair of proving any ways serviceable as you honour me have been Pleased to command me on this Errand, I intend to proceed on it as expeditiously as possible after settling the Business of my Employ, in which as I have no other View or Expectation than barely to convince you of my Obedience, the Hardships I sustain thereby such as Loss of Time in improving my Fortune, Endangering my Health, as well as Risquing my Person and Life by falling into the Hands of the Enemy which from all that I know I am to be utterly exposed to being to proceed without any Escort; I must beg Leave to recommend to your Consideration and determining as it has been

Fort St George September 1753

The constant Rule of our Noble Masters on all Occasions is to do and those being so late an Instance immediately before you on their Commands this year in favour of the Expedition to the West Coast; You will think an Undertaking of this General Consequence merits not only recompence but if performd with Success the highest Reward. The favour I crave during all that I can yet pretend to is what I humbly submit to your Determination relying that you will think it reasonable and appoint me something suitable to the Danger and Inconveniencies I am to undergo. Exclusive of this I am in want of your Orders to defraying my House Charges as I do not find any Notice as yet taken of it These Things your Honour &c must be sensible are Consequential to myself, and as such are necessary to be made use before I set out, wherefore as they have escaped your Recollection I hope the reminding you of them will not be taken amiss. I know not what nothing Work may present on this Occasion but if at any time there should be much I must acquaint you that I am not able to go through it having now an Inflamation in my Eyes which I expect will grow much worse. This I refer to your Consideration either to order me an Assistant or not as you may think most proper, and am with the utmost Respect

Fort St David
the 18th Sept 1753

Honble & Sir Your

Your most Obedient
& Humble Servant
Thomas Cooke

The President lays before the Board the Correspondency as follows

From Thomas Cooke Esq

To the Honble Thomas Saunders Esq

Honble Sir, Fort St David 20 Sep 1753

In my Address of the 18th I intimated my

Fort St George September 1763

Resolutions with Respect to undertaking the Commissions
Sanpaar is that I need only acquaint you now that they are
main unalterable; the Occasion of this is to request some
Explanations which I have to remark in case I proceed on
In the 3d Article, I am mentiond that the Dutonay is to
stay at his own proper Expence the whole Charge of the Ship
over & Marratta Troops. Does this means for the time past as
well as the Time to come? as I understand that Services last
year remain unadjusted. And in the 4th Article it says the
Payment of the Subahs Debt; I suppose to the Company
he would be able to accomplish this, is it not necessary
I should be acquainted with the Amount and what are the
Methods you proceeded for securing it. And should the King
of Sanpaar be brought to pay the Amount of the Debt but
has promised in Money what would you have me do with it
Another thing I have to take notice of is with Respect to the
Execution of the Treaty, should I be so fortunate as to make
all Sides agree for it agreeable to the Terms given me, I may
Easterly despair of any more Success; as I have with Major
Lawrences Approbation to execute without making more further
Orders and if by Chance there should be any over Articles or more
Instructions which the Parties cannot be brought into, not to
stay the whole or may Worthy Major Lawrences Consent put
it over; If I may, Publick Directions for the same must
be my Authority. You will likewise be pleasd to inform me
whether upon this extraordinary Commission it will not be
proper to carry some Materials for Presents, I mean nothing
large, only such as may be customary upon Introductions or
Visits from any of the Parties concernd, and speaking of this
should be glad to know if you would have me meet or Interview
with the Dutonay or would you have all that may relate to him
carried on by Correspondence only, the latter I conceive will make

Matters

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Fort St George September 1753

Matters much more difficult, how farr it may be necessary on account of secrecy, I leave to your Judgments. Shewing also that now present I now to beg the favour you will be as full to me in your Correspondence as possible it being my Strongest Desire to do nothing but what I am sure will be approved I am told that the most advisable and safest Road to Tanjore will be by way of Negapatam going down by the Shore I may probably meet with an Escort from the King of Tanjore by being apprized may send one, Besides it is a very good Short and Level Road from Wines and clear of all Rivers but one or two and those almost at the Journeys End, the other two there are Rivers innumerous and very difficult. You will therefore let me know if you have any Objection to my going to that Place, as I propose you my Map and shall be as short as possible, I will make the Journey intirely easier to me and I believe than any most expeditious I have received your Letter for the King of Tanjore which I omitted to mention in my last. I am with perfect Respect

Honble Sir

Your most Obed Humble Servt

Thomas Cooke

The Purport of an Answer to Mr Cookes two foregoing Letters being agreed on a General Letter is ordered to be prepared accordingly and entered in the Minutes which follows

To Thomas Cooke Esqr

Sir

We have received your Letter of the 18 wherein you phrase us of your best Endeavours in the Business we have ordered you to transact, the Mayors Tower and Attention being engrossed by Camp Affairs and the Nabobs Replies to the

Answer

Fort St George September 1753

Several Letters wrote home on the Situation of his Affairs have not from satisfactory has induced us to order you to Come to Europe with him and acquaint him with our Sentiments, for which reason we have given you our full and plenary Authority of the Difficulties you set forth and that great Importance of the Commission we do nothing but what may be transacted with Ease. You will pathetically represent to him the Utter Utility of our Supporting the Expence and if he can find no Expedient to remove it, an Accommodation with the Nabob must take Place and on this we have already told you his readyful

As Inconvenience you mention can never be admitted to interfere with publick Service, which be the Duty of all the Company's Servants chearfully to attend to when or wherever they are called, and if their Conduct entitled to it their Merit will always be considered, Your Absence will be no Detriment to your Station at St David, you will charge your Travelling Expences, Let them be as frugal as possible

The President has communicated to us your Letter of the 20th September, as he has desired that all Correspondence may be to and from the Board you will direct accordingly. Inclosed is an answer to your Second Paper.

We are Sir Your affectionate Friends

Fort St George
6th September 1753

Thomas Saunders
Charles Boddam
Henry Powney
Alexander Wynch
John Smith
Charles Bourchier

Answer to Mr Cooke's Paper on his Letter to the President dated 20th September 1753

3rd Article Whatever Accommodation the Nabob & Dalton may come to, certainly such Accommodation cancels or is an Ease of

All

Fort St George 3 September 1753

all former Demands and consequently the whole Charge of the Mysore and Morattа Troops and the maintaining those Troops whilst they continue to act for the Nabob

1st Article Proposes the Payment of the Nabobs Debt to the Company it is impossible to fix the Amount to be paid at Treaty so that it must be demanded on Demand Time & Security to be required for the Payment of the Sum must be that Trichinopoly remain Evacuated by English Troops until the Money be remitted and received here Upon no other Negotiation to observe that the Surrender of Trichinopoly is to be the last Resource and is not to be complied with until all other means of Accommodation with the Dalaway have been tryd without Effect, you may however to save time prep the Nabob at once to consent to it in case it should at last prove necessary

If the King of Tanjore pays the Money it admits not of the least doubt but what you would immediately pay it to the Commissary

If the Nabob and Dalaway do come to Terms we are convinced the Dalaway will not trust to any Cautionary in Cautionary therefore it must be referd here We have already told you Major Lawrence will not act and that you must solely be among them of what passes and hearing their Opinion

An Alteration of Articles may be admitted provided it be with the Consent of the Parties concernd

We have for several years paid our Honble Masters the heavy Load of Interest. Ten Lack Mohurs to the Nabob as many to the Dalaway will be sufficient

The Dalaway by his Vakeel has intimated his Apprehensions from the Arrest of a Treaty as publickly negotiated we therefore think an Interview if it can should be avoided

We have been advised the Commencation is open to

Fort St George September 1763

not think your proceeding to Negapatam will not be agreeable

We think it would not be proper to acquaint the King of Tanjour with the last Alternative of your Instructions till you are convinced of the Nabobs Resolution though you may assure them that nothing will be concluded contrary to their Interest without his Consent and on general terms recommended as advantageous an Accommodation must be to all Parties.

From Major Lawrence

N°38

Camp at the French Pagoda 6th Sept 1763

Captain Ridge with his Detachment join'd me this Morning; They were set out from Devecotah in a most distress'd Condition and the greatest Part of their Stores have been spoil'd through the Badness of the Weather and the Want of proper Conveniencies. The utter Neglect and Destructive Delays that I have daily Experience of will I fear prove the Ruin of the Company's Affairs much more effectually than all our Enemies United.

I have not heard from you lately though I think some of my Letters demand a speedy Answer. The Rainy Season is set in and it will be impossible to keep the Field much longer.

Honourable Sam Sir Your most Obedient Servant
Sir Saunders Esq.r J. Lawrence

Agreed that a Remittance be made to Major Lawrence of ten thousand Pagodas as soon as Bills can be procur'd lest he should meet with any Difficulties in drawing on us agreeable to our former Directions for the Current Expences of the Army. That a General Letter be at the same time wrote him in answer to the foregoing acquainting him

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him that we knew of no Delays and should be glad he would acquaint us whether the Officers of Captain Caiges Detachment were afraid any thing, whether the Officers of the Shaw were negligent or where the fault he complains of lies that we may draw a proper Resentment

The President acquaints the Board that Mr Starke had wrote to him that he had received a Letter from Major Lawrence mentioning his Apprehensions that the Enemy would make an Attempt upon Devecotah which he was of Opinion should therefore be reinforced, though Major Lawrence has not communicated his Sentiments on this Head to the Board the President is however desirous to write to Mr Starke that we cannot send any Detachment from hence, but if any more can be spard from North Arcot, Devecotah should be reinforced that this being a Matter of Consequence he should have sent us up Major Lawrence's Letter or at least a Copy of it

Captain Dalton advises that he had drawn on us for five thousand Pagodas for the Charges of the Garrison of Trichinopoly for the months of September and October exclusive of Seapoys

Ordered that the same be discharged

Translate of a German Letter from Captain Schaub at Pondicherry to Captain Gardiner at Fort St David's read as order'd in the French Correspondence N° 10 on the Subject of Mr Dupleix's debauching and enticing away the Men of the Detachment as mentioned in Consultation the 30th Ult. whereby it appears the Men were deceived by appearances that Captain Schaub himself intended to desert with them

Agreed that Remonstrances be made to Mr Dupleix and that we protest against him for inducing and enticing away under false & scandalous Pretences the Military

whom he has repeatedly declared he does not consider as Prisoners though he unjustly & violently detains them in Confinement contrary to the Law of Nations and in defiance of the Treaty subsisting between their Britannick & most Christian Majesties our respective Sovereigns and that Captains Schaub & Calliaud be likewise directed to protest against him not only on their own but on every other just Occasion that may require it

Amongst the Country Letters are two said to come from one Governdun Dass at Delhi and that the purport of them is that the Nabob had requested him to obtain three Phirmaunds from the Mogul one for granting the Subadarship of Arcot & Government of Trichenopoly to the Nabob, another for the President & Council having sum favours and requesting their Allegiance) and the third for the King of Tanjour but that the Nabob had not sent a Letter and Present to the Mogul which had prevented his obtaining them, that as soon as the present and Phirmaunds should be sent he would use his Endeavours to procure the Phirmaunds and on the second Letter he says he shall shortly send them. The President acquaints the Board that the Peons who brought the abovementioned Letters said they came from Delhi but last from the Nabob & brought Dustucks from Delhi for one hundred and two of Rupees each sealed with the same Seals as the Letters, that upon Receipt of them he sent for the Gomastah of Governdun Dass who lives at Delhi, shewed him the Letters and asked him if he knew the Seals, He immediately answered they belonged to one Governden Dass a Shroff at Velour, but upon the President's asking if he said there was one of that Name in Salabat Jung's Camp and they might be his, from which Circumstances it is evident they were not sent by

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by Governour Pigot at Delhi and very probably are forged by the Nabob to answer his present Purpose

Tho. Saunders
Geo. Stratton
Henry Lawrell
Wynch
John Smith
Pybus

26th Agreeable to Resolution of last Consultation a General Le[tter] is now signed and sent to Major Lawrence, Copy whereof follows

To Stringer Lawrence Esq.r Commander in Chief of the Company's Forces in India

Sir

We have received your Letter of the 16th Instant directed to the President, we know of no Delay[s] we are concerned the Stores should suffer from the Inclemency of the Weather, we should be glad you would enquire into it, if the Officers of that Detachment were refused any thing necessary or if the Officers of the Train were negligent in the packing of [them] that we may know where the Blame lies, thought we think the Officers on that Detachment should have taken care that

Fort St George September 1753

they were in order
We have fully replyd to the several parts of your letter to
us. Mr Stracke advises that he has sent you a Bill for
3000 Pagodas and we now send you another on Bradyll for
Pagodas for 12 000 more

Fort St George
2d. Sept. 1753.

We are Sir:

Your most Obedt Servants
Thomas Saunders
Charles Baddam
Henry Powney
Alexander Wynch
John Smith
Charles Boucher

October 1753.

At a Consultation Present
Thomas Saunders Esqr Govr Presidt
Charles Baddam Henry Powney
Alexander Wynch John Smith
Charles Bourchier

Monday
the 1st

General Letter from Major Lawrence read
as follows

Camp near Trichinopoly 22d Septem 1753

Honble Sir & Sirs No 1

After giving a little Rest to Captain
Rodge's Detachment I was determind to reque a Battle with the
Enemy for they had taken Possession of the Sugarloaf Hill & the
Rocks & made it very difficult for us to get Provisions or any
Necessaries into the Fort which endangered the Loss of it Therefore an
Attack upon their Camp was absolutely necessary though not Expected

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of success was not extraordinary for besides their Superiority in Numbers both of Foot and Horse they were fortified with strong Breastworks. On the 19th I made a motion in the Night from the French Rock to the Yorkers Tope as I found it necessary to begin with the Golden Rock. Yesterday day of the 22d we got in Cannonading and the Bettes to ground our Troops Blankets and an eighteen Pounder from the Fort that they might Rest but had no other View but that of disturbing them as they Forts with ours. That... Was built them to be Securely and at four oClock in the Morning of the 21st our Troops being disposed in three Lines with the Seapoys on our Flanks and the Horse on our Rear we attacked the Rock and gained it without any Loss, Cora Sangy the Commandant retiring after a faint Resistance and leaving behind him two Pieces of Cannon. This Earnest of Good Fortune encouraging the Men greatly we determined me to push on to the Main Body, that we Enemy might be lost. I disabled the two Guns and advanced towards the Sugarloaf Rock just as the Day began to break. Then the French were drawn up amongst their Works and the Soldiers marched through a constant Fire from and fire of Cannon, forced the Enemy's Lines and drove them out of them. They however rallied and made some faint Resistance afterwards supported by the Mrattas who rode up very desperately, but as these could not sustain a Spelling fire which fell upon them from all Quarters, they at length run away and left us compleat Masters of the Field of Battle the three Camps with all the Baggage and Ammunition and ten Pieces of Cannon. Three parts of their Army retreated some towards Sondamani Country and some towards Tanjore Elegant Seapoys lying on Trenches every Minute. The Action lasted near two Hours. We took eight Officers amongst whom

Fort St George October 1758

whom Most Active, and a hundred Soldiers Under
Killd which might be about seven more The Nevalitt
Retreat and prevented a Pursuit On our Part we had
wounded and several Men killd & wounded as yett we
Recruited Returns Received a Slight wound on the Elbow
a Musket Ball but I thank God it does not prevent me from
keeping the Field and continuing to do my Duty Some
Papers have been found which you shall have as soon as you
Offer with other Particulars The Enemy are now gone to the
Island and I shall intend to cross the Coleroon The Palmer
must certainly give up the Cause and the French we have
him are nothing It appears that Mons. Martin brought
with him seven hundred Europeans & I hope them have
no further Resource and the Loss of the Field Train must
affect them prodigiously I shall continue to destroy them to
the utmost of my Power

I have received your Letter of the 10th September
which you call an Answer to what I wrote but I am far from
being of that Opinion, however act as you please, Service
you wont afford me the least Complaisance I am determined
not to trouble you or myself any further with Recommenda-
tions of any Kind

I am Honble Sir Your

The Honble Thomas Saunders Esq[r]
President & Governor &c Council of
Fort St George

Your most Obedient Servant
C[t] Lawrence

The President Laid before the Board the Comp[y]
Country Correspondence

A Letter from Captain Dalton at Trichi-
nopoly agrees with Major Lawrence's Account of the late Action
near that Place

Although the Advantages gained by the

Fort St George October 1753

Late happy Victory are very considerable, yet the Board are of Opinion that no Alteration should be made in our Plan but rather that it be pursued without Loss of Time as Peace is the grand Object on which may probably be obtained are Dear to us Since whilst the Enemy have Cash in their Coffers their late frequent Defeats Besides the French have yet a considerable Force, the Scale of War is uncertain and a Change of Fortune might plunge the Nabob into irretrievable Difficulties in consequence of which the Resolution & Letter to Major Lawrence is now Agreed and is as follows.

To Stringer Lawrence Esq.
Commander in Chief of all the
Company's Forces in India

Sir

We have received your Letter of the 22d Inst. and congratulate you on the late Success over the Enemy in their Retreat they are so dismayed we hope you will pursue them Close till great Exploits must be done and made known. What Effect this will have on Morarow and the Detachment you sent from Pondicherry We have desired Mr Clarke to write to you that the Advantages may be improved, Captain Eyre writes from Trichinopoly that Nasser Addee Cawn & Sahoo Bonsla & Company Our Commissaries to the Gentlemen in Camp with our Thanks for your and their good Services

We are Sir

Fort St George
the 1st October 1753

Your most Obedient Servants
Thomas Saunders
Charles Boddam
Henry Bonney
Alexander Wynch
John Smith
Charles Pownall

Fort St George October 1753

Captain Pigou at Vizt writes as follows

"Nabob has this moment received a Letter from Trichinopoly advis-
"ing of a compleat Victory gained over the Enemy by which the
"Phaut Hussan is once more in Power He left Madura on
"each Side is not yet known

Ensign Hall advises that he had Dismissed
by one hundred & twenty of the Nabobs Seapoys and was in the
most towards Tryore

Abdul Bob Cawn writes in regard to the Seapoys
Money that Sanawasa Cherry the Renter had paid only thirty
nine thousand Rupees to the Seapoys for their Expences that
however to preserve the Presidents good Will he had found means
to borrow forty five thousand Rupees which he had ordered to
be paid them

And the President acquaints the Board
that he had accordingly received the amount thereof on the two
and five hundred Pagodas eight Madrass Pagodas.

Ordered that the same be carried to the
Credit of Nabob Anawerdy Cawns Account with the Company

Tho: Saunders
Governor
Henry Bourchier
Wm. Smith
Wm. Monckton
Geo: Boudouin

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At a Consultation Present

Thomas Saunders Esq Gov President

Charles Boddam Henry Bowyer

Alexander Wynch John Smith

Monday
the 8th

Charles Bourchier

Consult Letter from Thomas Saunders Esq. to

as follows

To the Honble Thomas Saunders Esq
President and Governour &c Council of
Fort St George

Fort St David 3d October 1753

Honble Sir & Sirs

I am favoured with the Receipt of
your Letter of the 26th ulto in answer to the Address I took
leave of making you under date the 12th of that instant, on
which I think I sufficiently explained my willingness to write
the Commission you have seen Occasion to lay on me & to shew
that my Endeavours should not be wanting on necessary to
come to your Satisfaction, but this the Sequel of my said
Letter will plainly shew was under a Reliance that your Hon
rs would appoint me a suitable Recompence for the Danger
which my Person and Life must & must be exposed to in
such an undertaking, being to travel upwards of 200 Miles
through a Country in open War without any Guard and then
to joine an Army in daily Action. In which though I do
not fight myself, a random Shot is likely to knock me down
as any other Man & to make the Comparison yet plainer, I am
to stand no better Chance than a Cow or a Buffalo, for though I
have the Advantage of Horse as reason it is far over ballanced
by the natural Shortness of my Sight which cannot but be
well known to you all. These Circumstances being the matter
of what I offer'd and intended for your Consideration, I gave no

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the greatest Concern to find by the Substance of your answer
that they appear entirely overlook'd and the whole Stress of your
Sentiments laid upon this Trifling Appellation. All Concern
which you are pleas'd to say Can never be admitted to entrench
upon the publick Service, and that it is the Duty of all Gen-
-ral's Servants chearfully to attend them to whom or where ever
they are ordered, and if their Conduct be entitled to it their
Merit will be always consider'd. As this your Honour Self
will permit me to say is no more than 15 Years Service and
Experience has made me well acquainted with it, and am confi-
dent that no one can attend to their Duty with greater Chearfulness
than my self, provided it be paid above to the Welfare of the
Honble Company or any of their Settlements wherein I am
may be Stationed. And for their Interest would readily
proceed to any part of the World, they finding me a proper
Court for the Security of my Person and Life, which I am well
perswaded they would readily consent to as it is their Interest
grant me a Suitable Recompence that would encourage me
to undertake it without, but in the present Command you have
given me it has, is and ever will be acknowledged that the Honble
Company whom I have the honour to serve are no Principals,
and though they have some Motives material to their Interest
espous'd the Cause of Nabob Mahomed Aly Cawn, it is well
known the Conditions are such that all the Expences they
are or might be at of whatsoever kind relative thereto should be
charg'd to his Account, and in consequence thereof every Officer
and Soldier going into the Field on his Service have from
that moment commenced on different Allowances suitable to their
respective Ranks and that this has been thought necessary for
their Encouragement admits of no Doubt. I might besides refer
for your Reflection the Extraordinary Pay that is given even
to every Cooly attending on the Army more than is allow'd
them

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them for any Use in Garison. Every Carriage, Ox or Beast any Sort are likewise hired at a high Rate that the Owners may be recompenced for such as are killed lost or destroyed From all which Instances I presume you cannot but be perfectly satisfied that some Consideration more or less agreeable to their Rank, Station, Credit or Quality are due to every one Officer on the Army. What you are pleas'd to represent of the reasons there is for my going or what I do not on the least take upon me to dispute, nor have I ever expressed the least Unwillingness to do it, but as the Safety of my Person and Life are to be exposed to extraordinary Hazards, First in getting to the Army and then to be Subject to a Tedious Campaign which I am confident was never my calling I must say it was the Hopes that I cannot undertake with any Chearfulness without a Suitable Recompence. Neither can I imagine your Honours &c are capable of dealing so hardly with me as to expect it when you are so well acquainted that something of the same Nature is allowed to every man on the Sale which is charg'd to the Nabob's Account. And how then is it possible for me to think that a Member of your Board singled out as I am informed for no other Reason but his Peculiar Capacity for going upon an Affair of such General Consequence can be so differently treated as to put his Life above in Danger for no Consideration. And here I cannot help concluding you to be greatly mistaken the meaning of what I offered to your Consideration in my former Letter in telling me "If my Conduct was entitled to it, my Merits will always be considered" Does there as if you understood it that I had asked my Reward beforehand but I flatter my self if you will do me the favour to look back to the Letter you will find it quite different, and that what I ask'd was only a Suitable Recompence for the Charges and Inconveniences I am to undergo; the last mentioned

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of which I had that been all, I must own I should have ceas'd
to have inserted it and therefore cannot but be greatly asto-
to find by your answer it has been the chiefest thing on
Lords. You'll therefore permit me to tell you again
what I intended for your Principal Debate was a Recom-
for the Dangers which you expose my Life and Person to
this contrary to any Obligation I am bound to on my Com-
mand. As to a Reward should my Success or Conduct deser
any Intension's to it I dare a thorough discharge of your
Commission I humbly and most willingly expect to be
determined on by my Honble Masters, being well assur
their Behaviour on that Case will be handsome & Satisfactory
but as Life and Liberty is precious to every one, it cannot
but be attend'd where either of these are endanger'd and
more especially in the immediate Service of the Nabob (at
whose Calling I never was) there is just reason to demand a
Recompence beforehand lest I should be killd, in which case I
am certain to have nothing but Leaden Coin for both Recompence
and Reward All this your Hon^r &c^a will be pleas'd to reflect
on as well as what Satisfaction my Family are to reap on
such a Misfortune and all from undertaking a Tour rather
in the present Dangers exceeds any part of my Duty but
I am oblig'd by my Covenants to go when & where soever I am
order'd is doubtless to be understood as General Terms without
my Honble Masters found necessary to insert, but as it
is well known there are no General Rules without an Exception
I humbly conceive there must be one in this, as it cannot be
imagin'd to have been ever their Intent or Meaning that any
one of their Civil Servants should be order'd face the Mouth
of a Cannon and they to shew implicit Obedience to it. This
I humbly appeal to them as well as your Honour &c^a if
does not too great a Parallel with your present Command

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I should however be as ready as any one to do even this on the Defence of their Settlement where I may at any time reside but to be exposed to such Imminent Dangers in an Open Country over spread with War is what I cannot by any means submit to either on Justice to myself or Family wanting a suitable Recompence be first secured nor the Letter I wrote the President at the Same time I addressed to you under date the 10th Millers acquainted him very plainly of this my Determination which of he has communicated to you will I hope bear me guiltless from having any Intention to trifle with you on this Affair And as I am all in readiness to proceed if this Point was but settled, I must assure you that I am otherwise very much Sorry Should be lost about it which Leads me to desire as I am sensible affairs of such Consequence should not be delayed / if after all the Remonstrances that I have now made you cannot in just reason to comply with the Terms of my Request, being expressly a Recompence for the Dangers which you expose my Person and Life to; you will be pleased to See the Commission or some one else and forward me to return your Instructions for I can never admit of having my Life put the way of being accepted without a more Certain Recompence especially on a Duty that I am concerned is no ways belonging to my Calling I am with all due Respect

Honble Sir &c &c

Your most Obedt
Humble Servant
Thomas Cooke

Copy of the Letter from Mr Cooke to the President refers to in the foregoing

Honble Sir

Fort St David 18 Sept 1753

I am to acknowledge the Receipt of your

Fort St George October 1753

kind favour of the 15th and am highly oblig'd for the good Opinion
you are pleas'd to entertain of me, though to have escaped the
Commission I must confess I would have been glad it were so
publick Answer comes by these Express wherein you will discover
my Intentions are to proceed as soon as I can settle my Affairs
and get all things prepar'd which I judge will take up ten or
twelve days at least, but you will be pleas'd to take notice I
mean it with a Proviso that I have a suitable Recompence
sides a proper Order for defraying my travelling Expences which
I flatter myself the Reasons I have inserted will induce your
Board to comply with. Such Friends as have at the Risque
of my Life & my Person being taken Prisoner are far from
being of a common Nature and such as I believe is not
specified in my Covenants and therefore cannot by any means
be complied with without an Ample Recompence. It will doubtless
lye in your Power to settle this and as it is immediately on
the Nabob's Service will of Course bear placing to his Account
so that if there be but a good Will at Home I conceive no Dif-
ficulty can be started in it. I do not extend to dictate the
Sum but hope it will not be under 100000 Pagodas & that on
hand; As I take it not as a Reward but as a Recompence
for twice as much which my Fortune may suffer by my Absence
As to a Reward I say pretensions to none without my under-
taking make such Success and then I should think I have
good Reason to hope my Fortune is made. That you should
not think I have the least Inclination to trifle on this Affair
I have occasion'd one of mine to speak thus plain acquainting
you that on the Settling of this Point depends my Resolution
and as it is probable you may think there is good Appearance
of my Return in five or six Months, I assure it no Longer
deserves the Sum mention'd, though if Affairs are not accommodated

and

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and the Army continues out I do not expect to move back by on and these two Years. Should I proceed you may depend on my utmost Skill in executing your Instructions to Satisfaction at know not how you intend my Employ should be disposed of but hope whatever has the Management of it on my Absence it will be carried on in my Name and that I shall be still deemed the end of Fort St David though out of the way over so long I beg leave to refer you for other Occurrences till to morrow shewing you that I remain with perfect Respect

Honble Sir

To Honble The Saunders Esqr — Your most Obedient Humble Servt

Thomas Cooke

The Board having considered the Contents of these extraordinary Letters are of Opinion for the Reasons entered on their Consultations hereunder that Mr Cooke proceed immediately on his Commission but is appointed to be provisionally included on without any previous Recommend and on his Refusal that he be dismissed the Company's Service and in Case as these will then be a Vacancy for Ensign it is Ordered that Mr Williams Ensign who is the next on Roll be admitted as a Member of this Board and proceed to execute the Commission which Mr Cooke has already too long delayed

Copy of a General Letter — to answer to Mr Cooke

To Thomas Cooke Esqr

Sir

We have received your Letter of the 2d Inst and must acknowledge our great Surprize to find you so resolved on declining the Commission we have thought proper to appoint you to without the Reasonness to make you for the Post you say your Person must be exposed to on the Execution thereof

Fort St George October 1753

The Arguments you use in support of it are very trifling enumerating the Dangers you tell us you must encounter to be exposed to, you mention being obliged to travel upwards of 200 Miles through a Country in open war without an Escort Nor as Major Lawrence has assured us more than once the Communication was entirely open even before the late Expedition seems rather a Pretence than any thing really dangerous nor did we imagine or expect you would leave St David without a Guard of Seapoys or after your Arrival at Fort to which place it is allowed by every one the Roads are quite clear of the Enemy, that you would have proceeded to Conjeveram till your Dispute with Major Lawrence & occasion an Escort from him should it be necessary to conduct you to the Nabob, neither of your Reasons for this Demand is the extraordinary Allowances made to the Officers and Men in the Field on the Nabob's Service which you alledge is given them for their Encouragement, we are sorry you are more ignorant in this particular than any other Person in the Company's Service who are no Strangers that those Allowances were established to bear the high Charges attending their being on the Field to which their Pay alone was insufficient to defray In this Respect you have much the Advantage as the Expences you may be at will be discharg'd by the Company, therefore we think it is exact in the least to be admitted in Support of your Request

We differ greatly from you in Opinion the Intent of your Proceeding is not upon the Company's but more immediately the Nabobs; You as well as we have but too much Reason to be sensible their Interest is so much connected with his that it is at present inseparable and that your proceeding on this Commission may be attended with very great Advantages to their Affairs and therefore may be

justly

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[illegible] deserve upon their Business. We before told you we made
no doubt if your conduct was suited to it your worth would be
properly considered by them. It is not in our Power to give away
the Nabob's Money and even were it, as you know as well as we that
it must come immediately from the Company's Cash who are al-
ready far considerably in advance for them, your proposal of a
Recompence appears to us very mercenary & unworthy and had
the Dangers you lay so much Stress on ever been so great as
now rather imaginary than real, for ever they may they are
to what you represent so necessary a Reward as we think ought to
tempt a Man, a Publick Spirit could not, so gladly to expose
his Life and Liberty [illegible] for any private recompence
with the Success of your Request, but insist on your proceeding
immediately agreeable to our former Directions, the Creditors
thereof has been already too long delayed & that you give us
the earliest Notice if you still continue to decline it, we shall
else look upon your part of Regard to the Company
Affairs in the Instance renders you unworthy of serving them
in any other Respect.

We are Sir

Your affectionate Friends
Thomas Saunders
Charles Boddam
Henry Bonnell
Alexander Wynch
John Smith
Charles Bourchier

Fort St George
2d October 1753

The President laye before the Board the Comp and
Country Correspondence and the

A Letter from the Marquis Dupleix (No 11)
which is wrote with the usual Spirit of Chicane which he
never fails to exert on the most trifling occasions with an appa-
rent Intent of drawing from us some unguarded Expressions

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rather than to promote Peace. The Subject of an Answer we were
in that by his positive Assertions in regard to our Late
Court & Transactions with the Country Government as well
as by his Behaving as Them he seems to have as more perfect
Knowledge of Them than we ourselves, that as he expects
Proposals for Accommodation says he thinks some means
Conciliation may be found out we should be glad to know
what they are that we may communicate them to our
Naval Commandy Comm Pocock & the Rear Adm. whose
whose Consent we will readily enter into a Cessation of Arms
if the Terms he may offer can afford us any Prospect of attaining
an Honorable Peace

Ensign Hall writes that having advanced Forty
or six miles of Tripaty he took post in a small Town to
refresh his People, but he had scarce Halted when he found
himself surrounded by the Enemy who attack'd him on all
Sides however he maintain'd his Ground and at last obliged
them to retreat towards Tripaty but having extended themselves
all his Communications he found himself under a necessity of
marching to a Place of Security. In a subsequent Letter he men-
tions his being join'd by Narrabutta Cawn and one of the
Country Polligars from whom he got a Supply of Ammunition
and judging their united Forces to be about two thousand
prepar'd the next day to march and attack the Enemy. A Letter
from Mr James Ogilvy (a Volunteer) contains the narrative
of the Expedition, Viz: That they attack'd the Enemy near
Tripaty and in the Beginning of the Engagement Mr Hall
having received a Shot in his Thigh which instantly disabled
him Ogilvy put himself at the Head of the Troops and
having entirely routed the Enemy marched into Tripaty
which he is now in possession. That Mahomed Cawn's

Ser

Fort. St George October 1753

been taken in the Fact of the Person the Court immediately ord
ed his Head to be Struck off.

Captain Pigou at Anjeel writes that Ensign Hall
returned thither having had his Thigh broke by a Cannon Shot on
the Engagement he had with Ensign Achilles Preston he left
the Command of the Detachment at Tripaty

The Twenty Sullers only enclose an Account of the
Enemy's Defeat at Trinomaly as mentioned by Mr Pigou in his
Consultation and of the above Guards at Tripaty.

The Board being of Opinion that a Tribal may
be of great Service at Tanjore by giving us immediate In
telligence of what may be transacting there especially as there
reason to suspect that the Kings Tribal Love is but too much
inclined to the French Interest Agreed that Ramah
Sack a Person of good Character and Experience be em
ployed as such and proceed thither forthwith.

Thos Saunders

Geo. Stevenson

Henry Lawrence

Wm Frankland

John Smith

Edw. Boscawen

Fort St George October 1758

No 9 General Letter to Major Lawrence Signd & sent as follows

To Stringer Lawrence Esq[r] Commander
in chief of all the Company's Forces in India

Sir

The last Letter we had the pleasure of receiving from you was dated the 22d September and brought us the agreeable News of your Success against the Enemy in plicates of our two last Letters the Receipt of which has not been acknowledg'd accompany this

We have not been able for several years past to send home Musters Rolls of the Military on this Coast if it could be done now it certainly would be acceptable to our Honble Masters, we should therefore be glad you would furnish us with compleat Musters of those under your Command to be forwarded by the Delaware which we are in hopes of dispatching shortly

We are Sir

Fort St George
Oct[r] October 1758

Your most Obedient Servants
Thomas Saunders
Charles Boddam
Henry Bowyer
Alexander Wynch
Peter Smith
Charles Bourchier

No 10 Sent by Poynier to Fort St David a Letter from the Governor with a flying Seal under cover to Mr Starke to be by him forwarded to the Marquis Dupleix requesting to Resolutions of last Consultation the same being dated this day and entered in the French Correspondence No 13

A

Fort St George October 1763

At a Consultation Present
Thomas Saunders Esq. Gov.r President
Charles Boddam Henry Conyng.
Alexander Hynes John Smith
Charles Bourchier

Monday
the 13th

Vice Governt Letter from Major Lawrence
read as follows

Camp at Warrior Sept 27. 1763

Yesterday Mayenda was retaken by
Assault after an Eight Days Siege and Bombardment, it was defend-
ed by Seapoys, Matchlock & Topasses belonging to the King of
Mysore.

The Enemy since the Last Battle are re-
turn'd to Syringam and a great many have crossed the Colerone
to Pitchunda. An Officer with his Platoon were push'd up by
the Tanjour People at Kitticonda, Officers are found daily on
Tondaman's Woods, so that their Numbers are greatly lessen'd
Mr Aldrich who commanded at Karkeel was sick at Syringa
says they had eight hundred Europeans in Battalion, four
hundred Topasses, one hundred of the Town, and twenty
five Troopers. Now one Battalion excluding Topasses and
Officers was twelve six hundred men we have a great many
sick.

The Nabob has yet received no Letter from the Da
lavay; shirely he'll soon come to Terms.

If the French should take Pondicherry in their
way when they leave Pitchundah I hope you'll take care to
reinforce it. Mr Aldrich says his out of his Power.

Pensions and rent be main Article, but Pon
dicherry will advance no money, to what purpose then will be
my drawing on you.

Fort St George October 1753

I have communicated your Paragraph relating to Dalton who intends to address you himself.

Captain Compton advises me that you have sent a Lieutenant of the Train to Vizagapatam who has formerly been made a publick Example of on the Pillory for his villainous Practices. All the Officers refuse to have him here; we hope you'll either clear the Character or turn him out of the Service.

The Papers I mentioned in my last are only private Letters of no Consequence to us. The Commandant's Secretary was carried off.

As we have sustained great Losses in the Article of Military Stores, whether taken from the Enemy or our own I have found it absolutely necessary to appoint a Quarter master of the Train who for the future will be answerable for all those Things. Mr Robert Revell from his Experience and excellent Character seems to be the most proper Person and is employed in this duty which does not interfere with that of Lieutenant of Artillery.

Lieut. Milford is dead of his Wounds and Captain Dalton has recommended Sergeant William Matthews on account of his extraordinary gallant Behaviour & good Character to be made an Officer of Artillery in preference to his own Relations. I have therefore appointed him to do the Duty of Lieut. till your Pleasure shall be known. I must recommend that you fill up Vacancies the moment they happen for we are in great Want of Officers. I wish Mr Starke could contrive to send Money to Tanjaur. Let our Dependence be upon ourselves alone.

I am Honble Sir & Sirs Your most Obedient humble Servant

S. Lawrence

To the Honble Thomas Saunders Esqr
President & Governor & Council
of Fort St George

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Fort St George October 1753

Hond Sr & Sirs N 3 Camp near Tachinapoly 2d Oct 1753

After the Reduction of Wayendah we march'd to the French Rock as well for the Sake of covering Convoys from Trichinopoly as being at hand to cross the Cavery in case it was thought proper. In the mean time a Vakeel arrived from Morari Row with Letters for this Nabob and Monagee declaring his good Intentions towards them and advising them to make Peace with Nundcarzee. This induced the Nabob to send Proposals yesterday which I Enumerate and will communicate to you the Answer as soon as it comes back but nothing of this kind shall put a Stop to our Military Transactions till Articles are absolutely agreed on as the Enemy's Design may be to amuse. The Forts Dalevay and Mottas were still in Springam and Combaco-nam Pagodas except a Party at Ettehunda

Our Distress for Money is very great. I shall be sorry to say this is the second Opportunity we have lost through want of the Resque of a deceived Bullock for the long Sea Voyage. There is no depending on Bankers and indeed his Complaints are not unreasonable. We may be hard on Bill on the Deputy Governors Council of Fort St David for Pagodas that they being short of Cash chang'd the Sicca into Rupees at the Currency and gave him another Bill on you which was rejected and sent back. This ground to your Delay of satisfying a Bill formerly drawn on you for Rup 20000 has hurt the Company's Credit prodigiously. I am not sure whether this method of acting has occasioned a saving of twenty or a hundred or two of Rupees to the Company on their Books but I know it has put the Life of all their Forces to the Rupee with Trichinopoly into the Bargain

Let me beg one more that you'll send me a large Supply of Money from St David to Tanjour, it may

Fort St George October 1753

come safe enough by Hircarr

Indorst is a List of all our Officers for Duty

Sam Hon[ble] Sir & Sirs

Your most Obed[t] Humb[le]

To the Hon[ble] Tho[s] Saunders Esq[r]
Vice Council

J Lawrence

Translation of the Copyes sent from Nabob Anwar
Cawn to Monsrs by his Vakeel 1st Oct 1753

1st After Peace is made the Nabob is to entertain three
or four thousand Horse & Foot in his Service & to pay them
out of the Sum of Money settled by the means of Morarow
The said Sum is to be paid by the Europeans or Shroffs for which they
pay Rent with the Security

2d The Nabob is to pay him the Chout & Peshcush
as usual unless Balagee Row should come to this Province &
demand it, in that case he is to receive it and Morarow is only
to have the Overplus if there be any. Further if Balagee should
the Nabob pay more than is usual, Morarow is to indemnify the
Nabob for the account of the year following

3d Neither the Nabob or Morarow is allowed to any
foreign Power except Balagee Row they shall assist
each other

4th If there be any Expence on account of fighting
he that calls in the other shall defray it

5th The Nabob is to try for the Purmaundes from
Salabat Jung if he can get them Morarow will have them
but he does not make an absolute promise as that Head is
and be answerable

Monagee Row acts as a Mediator in this Affair
taken

Proposals sent from the Nabob to Nanderawer by Vizier
Vakeel of Morarow and

1st The Nabob is to satisfy Nanderawer in the Sums of
Rs

Fort St George October 1753

Money be advanced him Monroe & Sundaram till the Duke of Cumberlands & the Nabobs Bonds further be promised to pay five Lacks of Rupees for those sums the Nabob engages to Mortgage such Countries as Monagee Row shall settle After that Money is collected Nundenauze shall return the Countrys to the Nabob

2d If Nundenauze agrees to the abovementioned Proposals he must quit the French and Mysore Service or else Morarie Row & the Nabob binds himself to beat them by means of the English

Monagee Row & Morarie Row are Mediators in this Treaty

N B Major Lawrence on the Part of the English has nothing to do with these Negotiations, but barely will assist the Nabob against all his Enemies

Agreed that two Lack of Rupees and twenty five thousand Pagodas be sent to Fort St David on the Bengal Expedition and that the Gentlemen there be directed to send Major Lawrence an ample Supply in the cheerfull Manner they can

That twenty Men be detached from this Garrison and sent by the same Conveyance to reinforce Devicotah and that Major Lawrence be acquainted thereof and that we approve of the Appointment of Lieut Rouell to be Quarter Master of the Train and Serjeant Hallhouse to the Vacant Lieutenancy by the Death of Lieut Helfore of the Train In regard to the Lieut Station of the Artillery at Fort St George who Major Lawrence says Capt Crompton advises him had been put on the Pillory for Theft &c he was first introduced into the Service by the Governor on account of his Capacity & sent to Fort St George as Gunner in which Station he has acted for several years so much to the Satisfaction of his Superiours that he was thought deserving of Preferment and about eighteen months ago appointed a Lieutenant of Artillery, On

Lieut

Fort St George October 1753

Enquiry into the Grounds of Captain Crompton's Complaint
it appears that many years ago Mr Sexton commanded
employed between this Place & Fort St David and was
being sent by that Settlement from hence to Mr Augustus Prevost
then Deputy Governor struck him and defyed him to
Enquiry & Proof cause Mr Sexton to be tyed up to the Flag
and publickly whipped, an action which at that time
upon by every Body to be extremely arbitrary and unjust
the Opinion of many Gentlemen who recollect the Affair
Mr Sexton was not guilty of the Embezzlement

General Letter from Captain Dalton at Trichenopoly
read as follows

Trichenopoly September 30th 1753

Honble Gentlemen

Major Lawrence has communicated to me
a Paragraph in your late Letter to him by which I have
that it is not agreeable to you that I am absent from the
Command of this Place

When I made Application at first to
Mr Saunders on this head I flatterd my self that you would have
readily indulgd me in it in consideration of the time I have
been in the Field However as I find to the contrary and it
would give me the greatest Concern to incur the Displeasure
of your Honble Board I shall in consequence of your Direct-
ions continue to take the same care I have always done of
the Place for two months longer and if you judge proper to
nominate the Officer who is to succeed me I shall in that
time make him thoroughly acquainted as much as lies in
my Power with not only the Fort & Fields of the Garrison
but likewise the nature and different Interests of the
People around us

As the Expiration of the above mentioned Time I must
repeat

Fort St George October 1753

request your Permission to resign the Service and return to Europe in the January Ships, my constitution being so totally ruined that nothing but a cold Climate can reestablish me. Many of my Friends can inform you that at my first arrival here I was in a very good state of health but at present that great Quantity of our Cloaths has altered the Scene much for the better and given me the Opportunity I long wished for of addressing you on this Subject.

I can't conclude without observing to you Gentlemen that the Number of European Prisoners which are now here are highly improper to be kept in this Garrison without undertaking Schemes are so subject to be put on Execution. Evidence of this they have not only a great Part of my Force to guard them but as they are now considerably encreased they consume as much Provisions as your Troops under my Command who compose the Garrison of the Place. I could alledge many other Strong reasons on this head but hope that from what I have already said you'll please to take it into Consideration and order them to be sent to Fort St David.

The Sheriff makes great Difficulties in supplying me with money for the Use of my Command. I gave them a Bill on you a month ago for Pag.s 5000 and I have not received a farthing of it yet.

I am with the greatest Respect

Honble Gentn

Your most Obedient and

Most humble Servant

J Dalton

Agreed that if Captain Dalton cannot be prevailed on to continue in his Command at Fort St George at a time when experienced Officers are of such Signal Service to

be permitted to resign and in such case that Major Lawrence be desired to appoint home he shall judge best qualified to take the Charge of Tuchenopoly and that Captain Dalton be directed to get all his Accounts since his first entering on that Command to the time of his resigning fairly drawn out and signed by him Vizt to prevent any after disputes

General Letter from Thomas Saunders Esq at Fort St David read as follows.

To the Honble Thomas Saunders Esq
President and Governour &c Council
of Fort St George

Fort St David 12th October 1753

Honble Sir & Sirs

I am favoured with the Receipt of your Letter of the 8th Instant wherein though my request does not appear to be complyd with in the manner I had reason to expect; it affords me some satisfaction to see that my Reasons made have been so far considerd as to lead you to attend to my having a Guard of Seapoys to escort me to Tanjore this your Hon.rs &c. have given me your Permission for this before the Thought of a Recompense would never have entered my Head but how could you possibly think that this could be obtaind from a Garrison that is already but too greatly drawn without your particular Leave is not in my power to conceive You seem to lay great Stress upon the Advices you have receivd from Major Lawrence with respect to the Communication being entirely open; This I am well aware was be present to answer, was only meant with Regard to Horcaras or the entrusting of a single Person with either Letters or Money and this I am apt to think you will all readily allow is much more likely to get safe & unsuspected than a Person who must be carried on a Palankeen and followed by some Baggage and Retinue which though I am inclinable to lessen as much as

possible

Fort St George October 1753

possible I can reduce) no more than to send Patamars, & Dooleys, besides Chests, Trunks & Packs, containing my Provisions & Necessaries. And can your Honours &c think that all this with out an Escort, is not enough to expose me to the Many Insults Your Honours shall come to a Knowledge of) Whether these Arguments are to be term'd trifling or not I humbly submit to the Judgment of my Honble Masters, as I do likewise the Justness of your Reflection in regard to my want of Publick Spirit, being convinced that they as well as every one will allow had I manifested a Spirit to insist on my own Rights, I should have seen the improper Person you could have fixed on for this Commission wherein the Rights of Nations are committed solely to my Conduct. Neither can I admit that your Opinion on my Ignorance relating to the Extraordinary Allowances made to the Officers and Men in the Field is at all more just and this I shall have no Difficulty to explain to my Honble Masters whenever Occasion requires. Though the many Instances that have been already made amongst them must sufficiently speak that they have not gone out for nothing which is too plain to be discern'd the Terms you intend for me. However as I am well satisfied that all further Remonstrances on this Subject will only prove that prolonging of Time to no purpose I conclude with letting you know that a true and perfect Zeal for the Interest of my Honble Masters, as well as that strict Regard I bear for this Publick Service are the only Inducements which prompt me to undertake this Commission you have fixed on me, in the Discharge of which I intend to proceed as soon as possible) and remain with due Respect

Honble Sir & Sirs

Your most Obedient humble Servant
Thomas Cooke

Agreed in answer to Mr Cooke's Letter that he be told that his endeavouring to excuse his Conduct by saying had an Escort

Fort St George October 1752

been allowd him before he could not have thought of
a Recompence is a more prudence could be dictated
Letters his Intention of going to Negapatam by water
rest of the way he would pass through the Country of
whence it is plain his View was only to get a Sum of

Agreed that Mr Starke be desird to send us a Copy
of his Camp Correspondence to be forwarded to our Hon.
Masters by the Delaware

The President lays before the Board the Correspondence
Military Correspondence amongst which is a Letter from Mr
George Dawson in justification of himself on the Complaints
made by Major Lawrence in his Letter dated 29th August
& 16th September last

To the Honble Thomas Saunders Esqr

Honble Sir

By a Letter from Mr Starke Esqr
found that Captain Ridge was soon pleased to secure me
Boy Cist in waiting upon the Gent sent with the Commands
Therefore humbly beg Leave to acquaint your Honour that the
Messenger by through mistake for the Shore most packet
up at Fort St David & sent me on board Condition to keep
was committed to his Charge loaded upon Coolys and Bullocks
the Accident that might happen on the Road from the Coolys
deserting and proper Care not being taken of them hope
am not answerable for

In regard to the Ill Treatment of
the Officers I am entirely a Stranger to Except what
sent excepting Captain Ridge who as I had the Honour
to acquaint your Honour was deputed with his Lodging House
endeavoured all in my Power by Reasons and Apologies to
reconcile for my demanding the Use of my Room the Next

Day in

Fort St George October 1753

possible I can reduce no more than to ones Calculation of Dooley, besides Chests, Trunks & Parcels, containing my Provisions and Necessaries. And can your Honours Sr Monk that all this with out an Escort, is not enough to expose one to the Mercy of every ten Horsemen that come to a Knowledge of one. Whether these Arguments are to be termed trifling or not I humbly submit to the Judgment of my Honble Masters, as I do likewise the Justness of your Reflection in regard to my want of Publick Spirit, being convinced that they as well as every one will allow that I manifested a Spirit to insist on my own Rights. I should have been the improperest Person you could have fixed on for this Command from wherein the Rights of Nations are committed solely to my Conduct. Neither can I admit that your Assertion in my Ignorance relating to the Extraordinary Allowances made to the Officers and Men on the Coast is at all manifest and this I shall have no Difficulty to explain to my Honble Masters whenever Occasion requires. Though the many Fortunes that have been already made amongst them must sufficiently speak that they have not gone out for nothing which is too plain to be discern'd the Terms you entered for me. However as I am well satisfied that all further Remonstrances on this Subject will only prove the prolonging of Time to no purpose I conclude with letting you know that a true and perfect Zeal for the Interest of my Honble Masters as well as the strict Regard I bear for the Publick Service are the only Inducements which prompt me to undertake that Commission you have fixed on and in the Discharge of which I intend to proceed as soon as possible and remain with due Respect

Honble Sr & Sirs

Your most Obedient humble Servant
Thomas Cooke

Agreed in answer to Mr Cooke's Letter that he be told that his endeavouring to excuse his Conduct by saying had an Escort

Fort St George October 1763

been allowed him before he could not have brought it to bear
a Recompence or a more prudence since he declares
Letters his Intention of going to Negapatam by water as
rest of the way he would push through the Country
whence it is plain his Views were only to get a Sum of Money

Agreed that Mr Starke be desired to send us a Copy
of his Camp Correspondence to be forwarded to our Hon.
Masters by the Delaware

The President lays before the Board the Copy of a
Military Correspondence amongst which is a Letter from Mr
George Dawson in justification of himself on the Complaint
made by Major Lawrence in his Letter dated 29th August
& 16th September viz.t

To the Honble Thomas Saunders Esqr

Honble Sir

By a Letter from Mr Starke I am
found that Captain Ridge has been pleased to accuse me of
Neglect in walking up the Hill with his Company
Therefore humbly beg Leave to assure your Honour that the
Declaration is through mistake for as the Shaw was packt
up at Fort St David & sent me in good Condition so they
were committed to his Charge loaded upon Coolys and Bullocks
The Accident that might happen on the Road from the Coolys
deserting and proper Care not being taken of them hope I
am not answerable for

In regard to the ill Treatment of
the Officers I am entirely a Stranger to Sergeant Sent for
but excepting Captain Ridge who as I told the Messrs
to acquaint you before was displeased with his Lodging Room
I endeavoured all in my Power by Reasons and Apologies to
excuse for my demanding the Use of my Room as these

Officers

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Fort St George October 1753

Apprehensions may prejudice me in the favour I dare not hope but an impartial Hearing whenever I have the pleasure of being permitted to wait on you will convince that no labours Expence I have taken since Mr Pybus left me have been with a sole view of maintaining a good character and recommending myself the Favour of my Honble Masters

I refer to the State of our Hospital & return of the Garrison for last Month

I am with the greatest Submission and Respect

Honble Sir

Your most Obedient humble Servt

George Dawson

Pocotah
1st October 1753.

In Notation a Letter to the President dat: the 16th September gives him full Power to treat with Mr Dupleix and even conclude a Peace on such Terms as he shall think proper. Other Letters from the King of Tanjore, Sundry Polygars and Officers in Garrison contain nothing material

P. Pr. Saunders.

Edward Aston

Henry Bowcher

John Smith

G. Bouchier

Fort St George Octobr 1753

Pr 18th The following Letters to Major Lawrence, Mr Cook and Capt Dalton were this day signd and sent agreeable to Resolution of last Consultation

To Stringer Lawrence Esqr
Commander in chief of all the Company's Forces
in India

Sir

We have received your Letters of the 25th Octobr and 2d Instant with the Returns of your Commissd Officers and private Men and also from Capt Dalton which he says have delivered you

Our Accounts of the Number of the Enemy are not near so great as what you write us By the last Advices they must have been greatly diminishd, it is reported upwards of a hundred have been sent from Cuddalore to Pondicherry and above Men and Officers have paid Tribute, some with and some without Arms which probably may be those that were reported to be in Tondaman's or the Tanjour Country

Having a Conveyance of the Prince George we have ordered a Reinforcement to Devicolah

The Want of Officers is obvious but if Captain Dalton insists on going home we cant refuse him nor the Company you will appoint such Officers to relieve him as you judge most capable, and if the Nabob signs the Accounts during his Command at Trichenapoly it will prevent Disputes which might arise after he was gone

When Mr Palk came in he told us there was no Occasion for Remittances for that Buckanjee's People would give them, we have since paid several drafts on us and several others given on his People at Tanjour, on sending for them he expresses a Readiness to do it inclosd is a Letter from him to his Correspondent, Several Bills have been his People at Surat, Mr Sykes has also orders to send Money by Bills on

Do

3/2

Fort St George October 1753

The Prince George we send a large supply which we hope will answer that purpose for laying in Provisions which we look upon as the first Step to be taken

You write us Captain Crompton whom you we have sent as Lieutenant of the Train to Trangapatam was for Theft & Malpractices had been in the Gallows and that we Officers will rank with him, you cannot suppose we would prefer a Person of such a Character to Lieut of Artillery at Trangapatam we first introduced into the Service by Mr Monse for his Valour and has been Garrison Mate Fourteen Years Master Gunner Seven years Monse is on the Spot the Man is known he deserves what Character the Men but no one knows the, Captain Crompton ought to prove his Assertions and if he does not we think he is not fit to rank with any one.

We approve the Promotion of Lieut Abbott as Quartermaster of the Train and as a Reward for his good Behaviour confirm Sergeant Matthews to be a Lieut of the Train.

We are informed the French are receiving Supplies of Men and Stores to Pondicherry and make Threats of Intention may be meant the Nabob judges right to prepare Forces just after the Enemy were routed, but Success may prejudice and will not enable the Nabob to support the Expence of the War, we therefore continue to think Peace is the measure to be pursued and desire you will take all Opportunities of proposing him but by pointing out to him the absolute Necessity of it. Some Letters have past between us & Morarow proposed as a Peace Maker and Ally Between the Nabob & the Carnatick and the King of Tanjore not to be molested he has not yet communicated how his Terms are therefore he has any sincere Intention for Peace, Were the Nabobs Negotiations may meet with Success, before that Last Letter Delawey Durand was absolutely sent to the Nabob between

Fort St George October 1753

not to grant it, we doubt much whether the Terms we have
in this proposal will be accepted

We reported that Salabat Jung appointed
Balazarow had recall'd Moni Bubjy who was on
to Aurangabad, the French have sent several Reinforcements
to Mehdipatam amongst which were several of the Black
English that were Prisoners in Pondichery. We wait Capt
Schaub's Returns to be duly informed of the Matter

The Nabob's Accounts are compleatly brought
up to the End of August; it will be necessary he should
sign them but I would be improper as they contain several
Sections to send them to him, please to desire him to send
a Power to his Diwan Sumpetroo to examine them and if he
finds them right to sign them on his Behalf

We are Sir

Your most Obedient Servants
Thomas Saunders
Charles Boddam
Henry Powney
Alexander Wynch
John Smith
Charles Bourchier

Fort St George
12th October 1753

To Thomas Cooke Esqr

Sir

We have receivd your Letter of the 12th February
you say if our Escort had been allowed you the Troubles
of so Recompence would have ensued into your hands, look
back in your Letter wherein you told us you intended to go
to Negapatam in a Boat and to ours wherein we told you
the Major advised us the Communication was open and though
you put a Meaning on it to excuse your Conduct it yet will
appear hurting as the Major has again wrote us so Wonder
you know you was to go through the Country of an Ally
the King of Tanjore; how greatly do you exaggerate the
Dangers your Life would be exposed to, Dangers that the

Sea

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Fort St George October 1753

but and perfect Deal for your Hobbler Masters which you so many
by expresse could not prevail upon you to meet with to the
Company Reward of 1000 Pagodas in hand would have not
moved and certainly your Deal except by your own Labor
labour will never be attended at that Same. Thus have you
at a Juncture when Affairs required dispatch, tryed above four
a month a conduct as injurious to the Publick Service as
how you we cannot but highly disapprove

Fort St George
18th October 1753

We are Sir
Your affectionate Friends
Thomas Saunders
Charles Boddam
Henry Bowen
Alexander Wynch
John Smith
Charles Bourchier

Captain John Dalton

Sir

We have received your Letter of the 29th Sept
setting forth a bad State of Health which nothing but a cold
Climate can reestablish and your request of resigning your Com-
mand in January to return to Europe. Our Service extremely
stands in need of Officers but if your continue this Resolution
We have desired Major Lawrence who is on the Spot to remove
such Officer as he judges proper to relieve you. On your
resigning the Command you will be necessary you leave your
Accounts from the time of your being there and get them signed
by the Nabob which will prevent any disputes afterwards
Buckargee's Bonds at Jour we they constantly pay the amount
of their Bills, we have sent a Letter for his Bonds. We are very
sensible that the Nabobs having so many Brothers at Liberty
poly must be a great Inconvenience in respect to the Garrison
and Provisions and we wish it could be removed there are
almost treble the Number of the Garrison at St David already
you will therefore consult with Major Lawrence that the Nabob
take the most Effectual Measures to prevent Murders

Fort St George October 1753

Fort St George
the 18th October 1753.

We are Sir

Your affectionate Friends
Thomas Saunders
Charles Boddam
Henry Lawes
Alexander Hynde
John Smith
Charles Bourchier

No 19 Sent a General Letter to Richard Starke Esq as follows

To Richard Starke Esq
Deputy Governour of Fort St David.

Sir

As it is necessary all the Correspondence should be sent to Europe for our Honble Masters Inspection and what has passed from hence being contained in our private Occurrences which must be forwarded by Sea, we think it very proper that all the Letters that are have been wrote by you to Comps and the several Officers on Detachment abroad and received from them which in any Shape relate to the Military Transactions and the Wars of Government should also be transmitted and hereafter must desire that you will order the same to be copied directly as wrote as soon as compleated to be forwarded also if possible by the Delaware Packet

We are Sir

Your affectionate Friends & Servants
Thomas Saunders
Charles Boddam
Henry Lawes
Alexander Hynde
John Smith
Charles Bourchier

Fort St George
19th October 1753

M

Fort St George October 1755

At a Consultation Present
Thomas Saunders Esq Gov President
Charles Boddam Henry Powney
Alexander Wynch & John Smith
Charles Bourchier

Monday
the 22d

The President lays before the Board a Letter to their Secret Committee from Denys Hunter Esq etc the Negroes receiv'd by the Russia Company's Ships Santa Rolla as follows

Honble Sir & Sirs

Under these Cover I transmit to you for the Consideration Transactions and Occurrences from the time of my Arrival here, and in this I shall as briefly as I can recapitulate the most material Circumstances with my Observations on the Situation of our Affairs to the best of my Judgment

We arrivd here the 26th April and the next day landed some of our Forces under the Command of the Hond which Mr Taylor had chose for the Plan of our Settlement but on my examining its Situation I found it by no means fit the want of Water was an unsurmountable Objection besides other Inconveniences wherefore with the Concurrence of my Council I determined to try further up the River pretty near to N E Point which had the Reputation of affording Plenty of good Water

After a Search of a Day or two we found a Spring of good Water and the Situation in other respects appeared favourable I determined to fix here

By the 5th of May we had so far succeeded in clearing the Ground of the thick and almost impervious Wood that we had room to form our Camp in which time we pitched our Tents & built all our Military Lodgements and

Fort St George October 1753

The Difficulty we had to get at the Place of our immediate Rise induced me to turn our Work that way we proceed to mark that by the 12th we open'd an Entrance to the Watering Place about four hundred Yards long & a hundred Foot broad

Our Boats had work'd so well that I thought proper that Evening to give orders for a Party of them to go hunting the next day or otherwise to divert themselves as they lik'd but contrary to my Expectation I found this was the only day I caught with some melancholy Events and which had been very near fatal to the Expedition as well as to the Life of every Soul of us — I need not trouble your Honr. Board with the Circumstances of this horrid Conspiracy as they are related fully in the Occurrences but I beg Leave to remark that it was happy for us that the Coffres chose the Fire Arms for their weapons, whereas if they had made use of the Hatchets Pickhooks and other Instruments which were daily in their Hands for cutting down the Trees they had certainly compleated their Bloody Purpose to our utter Destruction, I do not say this to extenuate what will be deem'd Cowardice or not guarding our Camp better it was certainly a fault even Providence directed to save us, and when all Circumstances are consider'd I hope our Conduct will be excused. I gave the Pickhooks Guard that night and to do them Justice I know him either negligent or wanting in his Duty no Man from one of our Military in Liquor since I have been here but your Honr. &c. knows how few we had so that the Duty lay hard on them and I'll venture to say that the utmost Diligence would not have prevented the Bloody Purpose of these determin'd Villains

After we had drove the Coffres from our Camp they retired to the other side of the Island where they remained in great Tranquillity till Captain Mainwaring

Fort St George October 1758

was resolvd on to spare one of his Regts which were to form a Body of Twenty two Men & divided into 2 Divisions and the Front & Rear into two Subdivisions each that they might act Separately as Occasion should offer I sent for the Officers & Men and gave such Instructions as I thought necessary we began our March and at the Dawn of the next day we were within forty or fifty yards of the Enemy unperceivd; my orders were for the Front Division to march up to the Enemy's Flanks and to run their Bayonets into them before they fired but some of our Men firing before began at the above Distance so soon though there was nothing and the Savages Witnessed running through the whole Battalion put us the less Ranks of the Rear Division fird through the Men Most of us but happily most of them overran Them, with my Sword I struck one of them to make them Surrender their Fire Arms but it was some time before I could get him to come with a Body again, when I had brought them to some Order, I detach'd the Sub Divisions into different Quarters of the Wood in pursuit of the Enemy who had taken to their heels and I believe they all escaped unhurt, however they were considerably routed & Suppos'd of Ten Pounder all but the Money which belongd to me and was about a thousand Spanish Dollars that had either buried or found means to carry off with them My Men frequently sent pretty strong Parties to hunt after the people Here & there in their own Quarters and in a little time they were so harrass'd that they quitted the Island on Log of Wood and such Contrivances as their desperate Circumstances Help'd them to, one of them endeavouring to pass the other Side was brought by the Tide in sight of the Sentry who call'd a Boat to take him up and immediately put him in Irons examining his Character I found he had been one of the leading Men among them wherefore a few days after

Fort St George October 1753

I ordered a Court Martial to try him, the Court so ordered consisted, were Capt Mainwaring, Capt Lyon, Capt Boyd Mr Babcock, Mr Knapton, Mr North and Mr Brooke all Gentlemen were of Opinion that he should suffer Death except Capt Mainwaring & Mr Brooke who urged that as they thought he had a Right from the Law of Nations all Means to obtain his Liberty and further they thought I had not sufficient Authority to order a Court Martial on a Life and Death; I thought their Arguments no way consistent with the General Good and having a great Majority I sentenced him to dye but have thought proper to postpone the Execution till I know your Hon.rs Opinion

I had offered to any one who should bring in any number of the Portuguese twenty Rupees a head, the Peguers have brought six of them for which they are paid at that rate we have picked up three more who surrendered themselves being half Starved, so we have now ten on all next shore Women & Children. I believe most of the rest are dead, I have heard the Peguers have killed some of them and I am afraid a few of them have got to Pegu.

I must beg Leave to refer your Hon.rs to the Literary Correspondence for the Situation of our Affairs with the Pegu Government.

The Reputation of our Force seemed at first to bring them into some Consternation and their fears I believe induced them to flatter Mr Westgarth with fair Promises but notwithstanding all we have done and the Concessions they have made I am yet far from dependence on their Sincerity, the Troubles they are at present involved in with the former Lords of the Country about Ava take up most of their Attention and not without Reason if I am rightly informed. The Family who lately possessed the Government

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Fort St George October 1753

Government have a strong Party and upon Ground daily inc
I think it is very probable they may in a short time recover their
Kingdom again. The present of King of Tega was formerly a
Slave South at Syriam and his Brother the Uppangaba was a Pris
on the Mesopotamia I am told the Captain general table undertak
ready of them so far as they have under the Yoke of an Absolute
Tyrant, I never Met with Men to be Depended upon it is not
unlikely the same Fluctuating Spirit may soon roll them down
again, if this should happen our Friends and our Interests
has hitherto been to very little Purpose however it shall be my
Study to take all the Advantages Some of the Circumstances
that may happen and in the mean time I am endeavouring
to fortify as Place as may be possible to the Water but for want
of hands the Work goes heavily on, this month past we have
not been able to do any thing at all, to before and however
long rock and at last gave for very little, the Inland Rains
has greatly impeded our Work

I gave your Hon^ble an Idea of what I have de-
signd I herewith enclose a Sketch of the Situation and Work
I am carrying on and if by any means I could get as fine
Carpenters and Coolys as Slaves I should soon perfect it so
as to make it a Place of sufficient Defence against all the
Powers of Tega

Your Hon^ble will observe by some of my Letters
the Governor has solicitous I have been to get an Interest
Settlement at Syriam a place about sixty Miles from hence, which
for much more convenient for Trade than Syriam or Tega
Mr Taylor who arrived here the 9th Instant brought with him
the Rajas Order to the Gov^r Thereto to attend us and as our
being possessed of that Place appears to me to be most effectual
I dispatched him thither the 12th instant with orders to reside
there in the best Manner he could for the present

Fort St George October 1753

I never yet shall be so fortunate as to have our Affairs
settled with the Rajas Government. I think that River
must be the Head Settlement, it lies in the center of
is able to subsist any number of Men whereas the Rajas
neither of those Advantages. The Approaches to the River
the Rivers lies open to the Sea and makes it extremely
for the Country Boats to pass or repass and there can be
between this and Persaim so that it will be always expensive
and troublesome to procure necessaries for any Number of Men
in doing. Here I have found great Difficulty for though there
are Deer and Buffaloes on the Island they are hard to come at
and dangerous too for the Bulldogs of Tigers. I employed two
of our Soldiers to kill deer for us at two Rupees a piece and
till of late they have had tolerable Success but the only good
Marksman among them falling sick we are at present at
a Loss and as I think it will be a long time before we can have
a Certainty of being supplyd with the produce of the Country
even for the small number we have it will be necessary to procure
a Quantity of Salt Beef and Pork that we may have some
Resource in case of Necessity, all that we brought with us has
been long since used and the poor Fellows have been obliged to sev
times to go with hungry Bellies. I reckon about half a Cask of
Beef or Pork a man will be a tolerable Provision and so in
proportion to what Number of Men your Honrs shall supply
this Garrison with, and here I beg Permission to offer my Opinion
on in regard to the Number necessary for the Defence of the Place

If a European Ship is permitted to attend us about
thirty European Soldiers and thirty Topasses will be sufficient
but the Attendance of a European Ship being very expensive and
in my Opinion their Service not always to be relyed on, I think
about double the Number viz! Sixty Europeans, and sixty Co
passes with Officers proportionable will be absolutely necessary

We have had no Relief from the Coast or from the

Bay

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Fort St George October 1753

Sir since we arrivd here we find that we are greatly in want of
most necessaries for which we must rely on your Honr for Spee
dy supply

Mr Brooke is at present at Bryan where he
was sent to concert measures with Mr Hodgarth and Inspect
how Corn agrees by the Pole Bulls as well Mr Taylor that hapn
embarkd some disorder how he was allowd to remove for the Ben
efit of his Health

I have lately been greatly afflicted with
violent Vomiting and Inflammation in the Liver which has
helpd to retard our Works for I have now only two remaind
with the Employment of Men in sufficient Knowledge but
not Skill and it has rendrd working extremely troublesome
to me your Honour Will therefore pardon the Imperfect
Draft of Method in this Letter and if there appears to be any
Error in my Conduct I hope I shall be excusd as I am aware
of having done every thing to the best of my Judgment for
the Good of the Service and Despair of ever to represent my
Actions to my Honble Masters in as favorable a Light as
the Nature of them can admit of

As the Monsoon here is I think now at
End there is every other Place I have seen on India for
that Reason extremely dangerous to send Ships or Boats to
attack the Island or for any Works to be carried on I desire
by your Honr Dr Cornelian to return to the Coast at the
Beginning of that Island as soon as to recruit the Sick of
Health occasiond by this and to avoid the most unhealthy
Season which I apprehend I should hardly be able to ma
ther if it is expedient to grant this Favour I can leave this
in March or April and be ready to return as soon as the Mon
soon is over next Year but whether this can be granted or not
I beg you will appoint some one here capable to manage your
Honble Masters Affairs in case of my Decease or Absence

Fort St George October 1763

I have not been conversant enough with the Books & Accounts to form a Set of Books agreeable to the method prescribed by the Company but I hope the inclosed Accounts will give Satisfaction as to show the Ballance of the Cash in my Hands and the Disbursements made by me in which I have endeavoured to be as frugal as possible

The Great Seam proving very leaky we have been obliged to take every thing out of her and She cannot proceed any where till we can get her repaired, which I shall endeavour to do as soon as I can get People; in the mean time I shall it necessary to keep the Cuddalore there to be employed on the Service as the necessity of our Affairs may require till we are better provided for our Defence ashore. The Fortune Sloop will likewise be of use to us as a Magazine it being dangerous to trust our Powder and Ammunition ashore till we can be properly provided, at present She is employed in bringing Turtle from the Island and is the means of subsisting our People

Mr Taylor brought with him a small Vessel from Syriam named the Mary Schooner, Burthen about nine Tons She will be extremely useful in going between Prices and this Place I have ventured to purchase her of Mr Taylor for the Company's Account at a Thousand Rupees which I think She is well worth.

We have begun to build some Houses for our Accomodation and I hope soon to take up my Quarters ashore to be more in the way to give my Attention to the Works that are to be carried on when we can procure People for that purpose

I have shipped on board the Porto Bello sixty Pieces of Timber for the Honble Company's Use as I think them strong Wood they will be serviceable for Mole Piles if you have any, we have very large Timbers here of the same Sort but for want of People to handle them I could not send any

Yesterday

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Fort St George October 1753

May it please your Honour to be graciously pleased to receive this Letter from me, as I am very sensible of the Impropriety of my writing to your Honour upon any Subject, but that of my Duty, and Attachment to your Service, and I hope your Honour will be graciously pleased to excuse the Liberty I take in addressing you upon this occasion, as I am sensible that I am not capable of writing to your Honour in the Stile and Manner that I ought to do, and that I am not acquainted with the Forms of Business, but I hope your Honour will be graciously pleased to excuse my Ignorance in these Matters

Fort St George October 1763

I have not been conversant enough with the Method of Accounts to form a Set of Books agreeable to the method practised by the Company but I hope the inclosed Accounts will give Satisfaction as to show the Ballance of the Honble Coys Cash in my Hands and the Disbursements be made upon which I have endeavoured to be as frugal as possible

The Great Snow proving very leaky we have been obliged to take every thing out of her and She cannot proceed to Sea where till we can get her repaired, which I shall endeavour to do as soon as I can get People; in the mean time I shall find it necessary to keep the Cuddalore Horse to be employed on the Service as the necessity of our Affairs may require till we are better provided for our Defence ashore. The Fortune Sloop will likewise be of use to us as a Magazine it being dangerous to trust the Powder and Ammunition ashore till we can be properly provided, at present She is employed in bringing Turtle from the more Island and is the means of subsisting our People

Mr Taylor brought with him a small Sloop from Syriam named the Mary Schooner, Burthen about one Ton & a half She will be extreamly useful on the Coast where Provisions are very Dear I have ventured to purchase her of Mr Taylor for the Honble Company's Account at a Thousand Rupees which I think She is well worth

We have begun to build some Houses for our Accommodation and I hope soon to take up my Quarters ashore to be more on the way to give my Attention to the Works that are to be carried on when we can procure People for that purpose

I have shipped on board the Porto Bello sixty Pieces of Timber for the Honble Company's Use as I think them Strong Wood they will be serviceable for Gun Carriages &c we have very large Timbers here of the same sort but for want of People to handle them I could not send any

Yesterday

Fort St George October 1753

Yesterday I received a Letter from Mr Taylor Secretary to Bengall where I sent him to establish a Factory a Copy of that and of my Letter to him upon Horsburgh's Chart you will find at the End of the Occurrences.

Mr Maul our Surgeon being very much to improve I have permitted him to return to the Coast for the Benefit of his Health, Mr Happens extremely unfortunate as I have made a man about me either Sloop or Vessels but what are such

Leaves sent by the Pole Bella Leopard Clark are of Her Mutineers and would have met the Ellen Jackson by the same Conveyance but as Captain Spencer thought it not safe to have two such notorious Villains together I have not given either of them any pay since they have been here Spencer I think they deserve nothing but the Gallows

I now take my Leave with a Health and Happiness to your Honr Bro Secretary to all our Honble Masters Affairs

Sir Honble Sir & Sirs

Your Faithful and most Obt Humble Servant

David Hunter

Island Negrais
20 Septbr 1753

Mr Hunters Diary of Occurrences is also sent but being of too extraordinary a Length to be copied on Leave for the Delaware Dogatch Ordered that the Letter only be transmitted and forwarded to our Honble Masters in the Delaware Packet which containing a Summary of Mr Hunters Transactions will give them a distinct View of his Expeditions and as it is observed that Mr Hunter has not given us his Observations on the Advantages or Inconveniencies of the Harbours at the Littles Negrais for repairing or careening of Ships it is Agreed that Captain Spencer who is esteemed an expert Mariner be desired to give his Opinion on that Subject

In regard to Mr Hunters Request that he may be permitted to come to this Coast for the Benefit of his

Fort St George October 1753

Monsoon there, the Board are of Opinion, that as Mr Brooke has been particularly chosen and appointed by our Honble Masters to conduct this undertaking without vesting any power or Authority further than to afford him such Assistance as we are able, are not authorized to grant him any Commission, neither have not any one that can be more capable to take Charge of our Honble Masters Affairs than Mr Henry Brooke (who was appointed by the two last Sailing from the Beginning been concerned in conducting the Negotiation and Expedition must have acquired a better Knowledge than most of the Company's Servants have

Agreed that the Tender brought on the Coast be landed as soon as possible, that what Provisions can be collected in time be prepared to be sent to the Negroes on that Coast that as Mr Hunter represents the necessity of a Reinforcement of thirty Europeans and thirty Topasses will be necessary, although we can't well spare them any that 30 Militia be sent them and that we write to the Gentn at Bengal to send one of that Europe Ships of this Season to the Negroes to relieve the Colchester if not one Charter party time expires in February next with about a hundred Casks of Salt Beef and Pork and some Rice, Grain, Cheese &c and as Mr Hunter is in want of all kinds of Necessaries for his own Table that they be desired also to send them every Article of that kind together with all the Artificers and Servants they can prevail on to go there

General Letter from Major Lawrence read as follows

Honble Sir & Sirs Camp near Trichinopoly 10 Oct 1753

I have received your Letter of the 26 September

Fort St George October 1753

September with the Rolls for 1500 Pagodas on Buckanger ordered. Let me once more acquaint you that it will not answer our Purpose to depend on him

I've regard to your Honour's fully replyd to your Letters I shall acknowledge at present the Receipt of a Complaint of one ordered and you perform as much as relate to complain with the Troops Proposed, then we made Difference between talking and acting

The Delays we met with from the King of Tanjore induced me to send upon Expedition to Devicotta and has brought us further Advance of 20000 Rupees to pay Bill This shows plainly to what we got before fulfills the Kings Promise to the Pallk

The Enemy is on the Island, the Colonel is unwell very much the Marattas approaches, Our people fall down very fast near four hundred Europ sick & Manager complains that his Horses are dying, these Circumstances make Winter Quarters quite necessary which we must shortly take up on the Tanjore Frontiers I am very sorry Gentlemen that the Delays I have met with (render it impossible) to come at Part of the Army to St David but to what Purpose do I complain & remonstrate when no regard is paid to any thing that comes from me

The King of Tanjore is our firm Friend at present & requires your Care to keep him so by acquainting me Before how we are for the March to these Provinces and he hopes to join us As the Enemy will use their utmost Efforts to gain him it depends on you to elude their Measures

The surest Maxim in Attack and that which will last the longest is not to promise more than you are able to perform, and when a Promise is made to keep it religiously the way acquire new Friends without Risking the Life of those we

have already and I would apply it to the Case of the King of Tanjour and the Dalaway for it appears to me that Honour oblige us to protect the former

I have heard nothing of Mr Barke whom you think a more proper Person to send to Camp than two of your own Body that know all Secrets if we have any more however I profess myself to be ignorant of. I believe I can give another Reason why you don't chuse to separate which I shall do myself the honour to acquaint you with when I see you.

Mr Barke acknowledg'd my Letter of the 21st September long ago, but I have not been favoured with any Answer from you. Nothing further occurs to me at present that has not already been mentioned

I am Honble Sir Yours Your most Obedient humble
P. Lawrence

To The Honble Wm Saunders Esq:
President & Gov Hon Council of
Fort St George

The President acquainted the Board that on Receipt of the foregoing Letter he sent for Buckunjee Gopee who were very ready to undertake the Remittance of a further Sum of Money to Tanjour for the use of the Army and altho Major Lawrence complains that it will answer no purpose to depend on them yet as it may be some days before the Prince George can be despatched and Buckunjee's People promise Punctuality, it is Agreed that ten thousand Pagodas be remitted in their Bills on Tanjour for the use of the Army

The Country Correspondence & sundry Letters from Vizt Chanderpaid &c are also read but contain nothing material

Fort St George October 1753

September with the Rolls for 1750 Pagodas on Buckanpore
indorsed. Let me once more acquaint you that it will be
answer our Purpose to Invest on Trust

I Received by your Honours Letter dated 29th
Letter I shall acknowledge it when it appears the Troops are
Encamped of are ordered and you perform or about what
relief to comply with the Kings Request. Then we made
Different Colours talking and relating

The Delays we met with from the Rains of late
have induced me to send Mr Pepperington to Tanjore and
and has brought us further Advance of 20000 Rupees to buy
Rice. This Sum joined to what we got before satisfies the
Kings Promise to Mr Pitt.

The Enemy is on the Island, the Colours
swelled very much, the Moors approaches, Our people fall
down very fast near four hundred being sick & Manque
complains that his Horses are dying. These Circumstances make
Winter Quarters quite necessary which we must shortly take
up on the Tanjore Frontiers. I am very sorry Gentlemen that
the Delays I have met with render it impossible to carry a
Part of the Army to St David but to what Purpose do I com-
plain & remonstrate when no regard is paid to any thing that
comes from me.

The King of Tanjore is our firm Friend it
requires your Care to keep him so, he requests one Battalion
from us on this March to their Frontiers and to Depute to
join us. If the Enemy will not their utmost Efforts to gain
him, it depends on you to elude their Measures

The surest Measure on Attack and that
which will last the longest is not to promise more than
that you can do more than you are able to perform, and
when a promise is made to keep it religiously. We may
require new Troops without Risking the Loss of those we

Fort. St. George October 1755

have already and I would apply it to the Case of the King of Tanjour and the Dalawray for it appears to me that Honour oblige us to protect the former.

I have heard nothing of Mr Cooke who you think a more proper Person to send to Camp than your own Body that know all Secrets if we have any however I profess myself to be ignorant of, I believe you gave another Reason why you don't choose to separate I shall do myself the honour to acquaint you with when I see you.

Mr Starke acknowledg'd my Letter of the 12th September long ago, but I have not been favoured with any Answer from you. Nothing further occurs to me at present that has not already been mentioned

I am Honble Sir Your Hble Sirs

Your most Obedient humble

J Lawrence

To The Honble Tho.s Saunders Esq.r
President & Gov.r & Council of
Fort St George

The President acquaints the Board that on Receipt of their foregoing Letter he sent for Buckunjee's People who were very ready to undertake the Remittance of a further Sum of Money to Tanjour for the use of the Army and although Major Lawrence complains that it will answer no purpose to depend on them yet as it may be some days before that Place George can be dispatched and Buckunjee's People promise Punctually, it is Agreed that ten Thousand Pagodas be remitted on their Bills on Tanjour for the use of the Army

The Country Correspondence & sundry Letters from Vizr Chang'ama &c. are also read but contain nothing material

Fort St George October 1753

25. General Letter from Majr Lawrence Governt &c &c &c
Fellows

Copy sent Cuddalore 18th Oct 1753

Honble Sir & Sirs

I have received your Letter of Congratulation on the Last Battle

In regard to the Moors that were coming from Devicotah Captain Ridge complaines that it was owing to the Obstinacy & Opposition of Mr Dawson who would deliver nothing as it should be. The Behaviour of this young Gentleman to all our Officers has been very extraordinary and merits a strict Enquiry when Occasion offers

You approve me by representing Devicotah as a Loosing Settlement, not to mention that it keeps the Coast of Coromandel in awe & Interest by its Situation. I could point out several Methods whereby it might be made a Saving and of private Interest did not take Place of the publick Good I shall lay my Thoughts on this Subject before our Honourable Masters by the next Ships

I have been told me that the three Capts from England take Place of Majr Grant Glenville and the Commissioners not being fill'd up of the Captain Lieut & that Gentlemen who have an undoubted right to come in before them the two former were nominated by you to fill up the Vacancies last Christmas. This is the highest Injustice and what I can never agree to. If you are determined to go on in this manner disgusting all the Gentlemen who have served well & deserved better at your hands I can't pretend to command the Army What Zeal is to be expected from Troops who find it out of the Power of their Commander to do them Common Justice

Captain Ridges Detachment were ordered to march from Devicotah without a Surgeon. Upon receiving this

Fort St George October 1753

we pray Solicit the Support of our Settlement [illegible]
the Opposition to the Military will never be Compass'd
ment which God forbid

The President promis'd you and Dr Pearce
Assist of holding General Courts Martial
of it.

A Resident at Tanjore is absolutely necessary
Mr Falk from the Service he has already done us
for it and will come if you ask him

Morarow's Messages are come to nothing
at first expected. We must canton the Troops in Fours or Five
days or we shall not have a man left alive

My Spying Glass is broke, Pray send
to furnish me with three or four good Ones if you can procure
them. I should likewise be glad of some handsome Dove Tail
shot Little Things for Presents to our Allies which are expended
and I have hitherto been obliged to provide at my own Expence

I am Honble Sir & Sirs

The Honble Tho Saunders Esqr
President & Governour & Council
of Fort St George

Your most Obedient Servant
S Lawrence

The foregoing Letter having been Communicated to the rest
of Gentlemen of Council the following Answer was agreed on
and sent viz

To Stringer Lawrence Esqr

Sir

We have receivd your Letters of the
10th & 11th, in the former you acknowledge the receipt of the
Bills on Buckingers People for £10,000, these People appear
us of their greatest readiness to negotiate them, as you say were
used with Civility we have ordered Mr Starke to send you
the money, he writes us he has sent you a small Sum which
if it gets safe he will send more it is attended with great Loss

Fort St George October 1753.

from St David to Devecotah is on the Enemys Coast so that he will not suppose sent it first to Devecotah by Post however we have sent you Bills for £ 10000 more for fear of Accidents and the Prince George will carry a large supply to St David.

Our answer to your several Letters we submit to our Humble Masters.

In regard to Winter Quarters or any motives to be made as you are on the Spot we desire you will act as you judge for the Good of the Service. What may occur here or at St David's we Mr Starke will advise you of.

Your Maxim of Policticks is just, the King of Tanjore is an Ally and we have a Treaty with the Nabob and we expect a Treaty, we therefore desire you will afford such Protection to him as may prevent his Suffering, in regard to the Dalavoy the Nabob will nothing with him without including the King of Tanjore's Palaiarron on his Departure promised to return how easy was it for him when he was near us by sending a few of his Troops to have settled the Province, any Dependance on him is precarious, why may he not again be brought off for twenty five Lack, it is reported the Mulabar Navy are not on friendly Terms which has excited the Caller to recall Mr Bailey's Troops and Mr Dupleix to send Reinforcements to the Northward.

We sent Mr Cooke as we thought him the properest Person and one that could best be spared

Mr Dawson has made us a Tender in regard to the Officers a Copy of which we send you inclosed

Devecotah never can be a Flowing Settlement to the Company like Tripapè of its Charges, its Situation is bad and its Revenue instead of admitting of Steps of Purkun will but at particular Times admit of small Reliefs and the only increase that can be made is at the Expiration

Fort St George October 1753

of the Cowle granted by Mr Sloper Dr Council to enter
let it out on better Terms

Our former Letters will Shew that we were
Honble Masters for Officers and the Vacancies were
for them and this we likewise Submit to the Honble Compa

We are very sensible of the necessity
number of Surgeons & Undertakers in the Service as many
can get: We think it would be imprudent to
sons without them

Mr Falk was desired to go to Camp but absol
ly declined it alledging he could be of no Service We will endea
vour to prevail on him to go

We are sorry the Nabobs Offers were not accepted
which convinces us that the Affair rests just on the same point
it did

By the Prince George we shall forward some Spy
ing Glasses

We are &c

Your most Obedient Servants
Thomas Saunders
Charles Boddam
Henry Powney
Alexander Wynch
John Smith
Charles Bourchier

Fort St George
25th October 1753

P.S. Our Affairs at present entirely taken up
by the Delaware's Dispatch for Europe who will leave
us in a few days when we shall give you a deter
minate Answer in regard to General Court
Martial.

At a Consultation Present

Thomas Saunders Esq Gov. President
Charles Boddam Henry Powney
Alexander Wynch John Smith
Charles Bourchier

Tuesday
the 30th

The following Letter from Capt Gordon
having been omitted to be entered in their Consultation under its
proper Date is ordered to be entered here

&c

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Fort St George October 1753

Consequence of his Refusal and drawing two of the Members of the Board might be sent, that we apprehended Methods worthy attending which, if at a proper time to come to act on this Affair either by himself or jointly with the Council we will send him fully our

As the Major does not declare his Reasons whereon he grounds his Opinion that the Nabob can't support the Expence up of Confidency to the Dalawayl must be a greater Interest to the Company than the Loss of their whole Debt, the Board are to Cause to alter their Instructions in this Article and are neither daily confirmed in them especially as the Expiration of three years account from Europe would scarcely suffice to defray the immense Expence the Company are at on the Nabobs Account exclusive of any Investment which must on no account be restricted and untoth the Nabob is supplied with Money to be able to collect any Effects of the Rents, the Dalawayl will inevitably get by force what may now be delivered to him by Treaty on very advantageous Terms. This the President is desired to acquaint the Major with and desire his Opinion whether on these Circumstances the Company can support the War, and if not, what other means remain to be tryed.

As the Clause in the Charter relating to the Holding of Courts Martial being read the Board are of Opinion that by virtue of the 9th Geo. 2 the Heads in time of War and open Hostility Major Lawrence may be empowered to assemble and appoint Courts martial in the Field where he certainly is in open Hostility, but that they cannot be construed to this or any other of the Company's Garrisons or Settlements where Peace & Tranquillity reigns. Agreed therefore that a Commission be drawn out empowering Major Lawrence to appoint Courts Martial for the Trial of Offenders according to the Intent and meaning of the Act for punishing Mutiny and Desertion during such time and when and as often as the Company's Forces under his Command shall be in actual

Fort St George October 1755

in time of War or open Hostility untyle sooner revoked

Ordered also that a Commission be drawn
out appointing Ensign Benjamin Denisse Judge Advocate
of the said Court Martial

Major Lawrence having recommended
Benjamin Denisse, Brook Saunders, John Dunnan & Peter
Clerk, Volunteers, to be made Ensigns Ordered that Com-
missions be drawn out for them accordingly and that as
all Vacancies be fill'd up as soon as they happen

A General Letter from Thomas Cooke Esq. read as
follows.

Fort St. David 20th Oct 1755

To the Honble Thomas Saunders Esqr
President & Governour & Council of
Fort St George

Honble Sir & Sirs

I addressed you under Date the 12th
Instant informing you of my Intention to proceed on the Com-
mission you have appointed me as soon as possible. I have
since applyed to the Deputy Governour for an Escort agreeable
to the Commission given me on your last but was told there is
not a man that can be conveniently spared from this Garrison.
I have therefore determined on proceeding to Negapatam and to
wait there for an Escort of Horse from the King of Tanjour which
I have by Letter apprized him as likewise the Nabob and Major
Lawrence and propose setting out for that Place by Sea in three
or four days, as this is by every one I have advised will attend
to be the best Quickest Way. I rely that you will have no Objection
to it. I understand that the Army is still in much distress
for money therefore as it will be inconvenient to the Major to
supply my Occasions I have required the Board here to fur-
nish me with 1000 Pagodas but as they have received no Orders
regarding me they have recommended me to draw on your

Honours

Fort St George October 1753

Honble Sr which Secondingly moved in favour of Mr Dawsons Draft for the said Sum and shall remit a just Account thereof at my Return — I should have proceeded by this time but have been deeply engaged in adjusting our General Books and putting them in the utmost forwardness could for closing which I am now obliged to do for forwarding the Sabeth Accounts and Duck Stock which your Honour &c were so immediately Heard of for this dispatch — I shall not fail to address you constantly on all Occurrences and hoping that my Conduct will in general meet with your Approbation, I remain with due Respect

Honble Sr &c &c

Your most Obedt Hble Servt

Thomas Cooke

The Bill of Exchange which Mr Cooke mentions in the foregoing Letter to have drawn on us being now produced Ordered that it be accepted and paid when due

The President lays before the Board a Letter from M. Dupleix (N 13) in answer to that wrote him the 4th Instant wherein he says he is ready to do every thing expedient to satisfy all Parties and desires either that a Person may be sent to him to whom he will communicate his Proposals verbal by or that his Deputy and ours may meet at some Place between Pondicherry and this Settlement or North Point

The Board are of Opinion that M. Dupleix declining to make his Proposals in writing has not the Appearance of a sincere Intention to promote Peace, but rather that he has in design a Conference to create a Jealousy in the Nabobs & his Allies, it is Agreed therefore to write him an Answer and desire that he will communicate his Proposal in writing which will give us Light to consider the Conference and will enable us to give our Commissary proper Instructions

The Coventry Correspondence was laid before the Board.

Captain Inn at Changlepet regards Sundry

Fort St George October 1, 1763

Stores may be sent him and orders are Indent which are ordered to be complied with

Sanawaza Cherry writes that the whole Country of what he had collected at Tripaty was thirty two thousand Pagodas and eight thousand five hundred ₹32500 Pagodas Sums has he'd remitted by Ritz as the Savacars that he could see he had not collected any more was that Mahomet Cassim having been in possession of that Place the five first days he had received the Tribute for that Some amounted to the sum of thirteen thousand ₹13000 Pagodas That he has paid to the Company's Sircar three two thousand ₹2000 Pagodas & other Sums at different times to the Sepoys

Mr Preston

Ordered that the amount of the said Bills when paid be carried to the Credit of Nabob Anawendy Cawn Mr Preston having omitted to advise the Receipt of the Money sana Cherry mentions to have paid him on account of the Sepoys Agreed that he be reprimanded and ordered on future to remit his exact Accounts of all Monys that may come to his hands on account of the Circars

Nawabutta Cawn writes that having enquired very strictly enquired into the Collection at Tripaty here with appears that Mahomet Cassim did not receive above eight thousand ₹8000 Pagodas and that Sanawaza Cherry made a very large Collection and has drawn out false Accounts to defraud the Circars & therefore desires that they may be narrowly inspected

As it is very probable that Sanawaza Cherry endeavours to take Advantage of Mahamut Cassims having been in possession of Tripaty at the Beginning of the Year in the manner Nawabutta Cawn alledges It is Agreed that he be sent for to settle his Accounts here with Sumpetroo the Nabob's Dewan

Abdul Bob Cawn having some time ago (as mention'd in Extraordinary Consultation 1st October) remitted ten thousand five hundred & eighty eight ₹10588 Madras Pag

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Fort. St George November 1753

you be approved of if you will demand Leave representing to
his Majesty that the detaining them is contrary to that Treaty
& Alliance & Friendship he has made with the Rajah whose
Servts we Are. The Regulation
observed in Most West Indian Colonies in regard to Slaves is also
proposed for your Government for though the Laws of Nature
may give them a right to use any means to recover their
Liberty yet if there was not some Law or Custom to prevent it
Slaves would soon be Masters, had the rebels Numbers or
better part of them returned it would have been absolutely ne
cessary to have made one Example to deter the rest, and we
will not believe that sufficient to keep here one Slave when con
demned to dye.

When we consider the great Affinity of
our Enemies to ourselves to the King have projected our
Settlement of the Negroes must be to the Commerce of his Kingdom,
that endeavours to put this Affair on the surest Sight and
that they will spare no pains to render it abortive, It does not
in the least surprize us that he should be averse to our De
sign, but this we think may be got the better of by three or
a prudent Conduct on our part. You certainly judge right
in being circumspect and not putting such a Confidence in
them as might prove fatal to you, a Resolution we may be
certain, like Mars with the Romans is very favourable for the
Execution of your Plans, we don't conceive they will ever
attempt to oppose you openly by force whilst so many fit to
attend you but would rather endeavour to cut off your Sup
plies of Provisions, to prevent which a Store of six Months
will be necessary to be constantly kept and the more expeditious
you are in completing your Works the better. That nothing
may be wanting we have sent you on the Port Bolle Ketch
Military and a Doctor with such Provisions and Sea stores
as he could take in and have wrote to the Govr of Bengal
to dispatch one of our Vessels to Metapolam to relieve the

Fort St George November 1753

Colchester and by her to supply you with Provisions Stores
&c and Lascars on her Arrival you will immediately give
Capt Mainwaring Directions to proceed to Bengal

As you have an Engineer with you we hope
the Fortifications entirely to your Direction, by the Letter
Consult Copy of what you sent us to our Hon'ble Masters
Lessons from what may be more immediately necessary
adviced we would be glad that Soundings on the Bar were
taken and that you would give us your Opinion of the best
by Conveniencies or Inconveniencies for repairing Europe
Ships of Burthen as well as Small Vessells We are sorry to
observe the Situation is so very unhealthy during the Sou
west but by a Remark made to us that the People on board
the Vessels which lay at a very small Distance are not affected
we suppose it proceeds from the Thickness of the Woods which
when cleard may probably render it healthy

Mr Braher represents to us that the Powder
sent by the Ports Bills is fit for some use but not of a sort
the Kind therefore we would have you only send it when
Peace is not procurable.

We cannot say any thing concluding at present
and concerning Persia, please to enquire yourself thoroughly
by whether if this Place be settled it will answer the purpos
of Syrian and that we may withdraw from thence. If you find
Mr Taylors residing there will facilitate your Designs by all
means continue him

We are sorry for your Indisposition which
we hope as the unhealthy Season is past you are recovered of
and should gladly grand your Request of returning to the Coast
but know no proper Person to appoint in your Stead, as this
Affair is in its Infancy and the Success of it of the utmost
Consequence we are greatly apprehensive it might suffer therefore
as Syrian is reckoned by all a very healthy place we would

recommend

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Fort St. George November 1753

recommend your Personal Care during the Monsoon typhoon
Seasons you would be at hand to give your Directions wherever
requisite. Mr Brooke was appointed to succeed you in case of
Accident, we have no one to spare from hence. Therefore
leave it to you to nominate such Person as you shall judge
most capable.

Captain Preston representing to us he could not
without the hazard of spoiling those rare Collections
designed for the King of Prussia dispatch it, as ought to take
there till a proper Conveyance offers.

On your appointment to the Agency we de-
sired Mess. Hodgarth & Taylor to deliver to you those Accounts
which we don't find is done. Inclosed are the Estimates of the
Charges attending Shipping them with which they must be accom-
table to you for. As they have not as we presume we can-
not form any Judgment of their Expences, or the Advantage of
them to you, you will remember them and please to let Mr Saunders
know the Company that they are not overcharged and that any
Articles are not placed to their Account which it would be
unreasonable that they should pay.

As you acquaint us you are not conversant
with the Form wherein keeping the Company's Books we send
you a Copy of the Ingeram Journal Canals for your Guidance.

Mr Williams Anderson the Surgeon also mon-
tioned has received an Advance of one hundred and eighty
Rupees and the Detachment their pay for the Current Month.

We desire you will write us by all Opportu-
nities that we may afford you that proper Assistance.

We are Sir

Your most Obedient Servants

Thomas Saunders

Charles Boddam

Henry Powney

Alexander Wynch

Fort St George
1st November 1753.

Fort St George November 1753

At a Consultation Present

Thomas Saunders Esq Gov President

Charles Boddam Henry Powney

Alexander Wynch John Smith

Charles Bourchier

Monday
the 5th Nov

General Letter to Major Lawrence &c

approvd and signd as follows

To Stringer Lawrence Esq
Commander in chief of all the Company's Forces
in India

Sir

We have receivd your Letter of the 31st

Such Musto Rolls as you sent we receivd. We are sensible of the ill Consequence of their falling into the Enemys Hands wherever you find a proper Opportunity we desire you will forward them. We desire to our Mortal Hatred are so full & particular that we don't doubt of their Support & we wish as many Recruits as their Ships can transport

We approve your Promotion of Mess Drummond, Brooke Sampson, Dawson & Clarke, We have no Commissions for the several Officers are drawn out We shall send you a List to morrow or the next day

We were concernd equally with you at Mr Cooke's Delay which by the inclosed Copy of his Letter you will see the Reason of. We have again applyd to Mr Pitt who tells us that after the Rains are over when the Morasses permit he will proceed to Conjeveram if he can be of any Service

The Weather preventing the dispatch of the Prince George as soon as we could have wish'd we forwarded to Mr Starke Bills for Pags 10.000 by her since we have sent him a large Supply of Cash with Directions to remit you what

you

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Fort St George November 1753

you may have occasion for

Captain Abraham Adamson his Batt. Mr Dupleix

has invested Gooty & has orders to take Servants out of those

now of those taken Prisoners at Trichy

Dispatches from Mr Hunter are come by Cossid

at the Nagore the 26th of April and in postscript he acquaints

Accounts of a Conspiracy of the Cabrays had been put on foot

to the Expedition, they have most of them persisted in yet

to the extent only seven Men Women remaining The Next

Day one exceeded to the Allowance but does not seem pleased

with the Expedition.

Rama Naik having been remonstrated with

the Officers of the Country Powers we have ordered him as a

Rebel first to Tanjore and then to Camp whereby you may employ

him on all occasions you judge necessary

We have sent Captains Lindesay and Grant

on the Prince George to Fort St David from whence they are to

proceed to Camp.

Captain Maclellan who is Commandant

has Orders and Cash with him to be acquainted to you with

all Military Transactions

By the Charter vested in you you

are given to convene a Court Martial as soon as there appears

Absolute necessity & power granted to

you Opinion. We think that by means of a Courts Martial

may be held on the Field where you are certainly in speedy

Hostility and accordingly a Commission & Instructions we prescribe

may you to do in which will be sent on a day or two we shall

however recommend to you to use it only in Case of absolute

Necessity and even then with as much Lenity as may be con-

sistent with the Safety of the Army.

Fort St George
5th March 1753

We are &c &c Your most Obedient Servants The Council

Charles Boldam, Henry Lowry, Alexander Hynch Cockburn

Charles Bourchier

Fort St George November 1760

The President lays before the Board a Letter from
Sir Stringer Lawrence which is read and approved and is as follows

To Stringer Lawrence Esq
Commander in Chief of all the Company's
Forces in India

Sir

I have received your Letter of the 27th
we should have been glad you could have negotiated
but your writing to us so expressly that your Masters
Views would not allow of it at the same time absolutely told
it we did not press it to you if you could do it we wish you
your Powers instead of Mr Cooke

I agree with you that Peace is absolutely necessary and think with you also that the last Proposal should only be complyed with at the last Extremity, what Methods to think of to avoid it. The Nabobs Debt is now upwards of twenty Lack, Expence makes an Addition monthly of above one more and the Consignments from Europe this Season will not I am apprehensive even support them only without the Investment, it does not appear to me that he can find means to carry on it so to support his Troops how can he carry on the war or hinder them from taking by Force what they ask by Treaty The Country has been so ravag'd that neither the Nabob or the French can draw from thence any Supplies of Consequence, Mr Duplex's Expences last year must have been very high, now I hear the Dalloway pays the Charge of the Troops that are sent from out of the Seat of War was removed I believe that would be discontinued, is not this too great a Burthen for her Foreign as well as ours, does his King hear of it, if so can our Company recind that Point I am afraid not If they could whoever persevered and is successful will certainly reap the Benefit the Question is how it can be done He has a large Money with Salabat Jung on which ends at this Dependence

rather

Fort St George November 1753

reduction of which Province we have found to be Myaore and Manilla since Hyder Nabob King of Sanore and most Bijapore, however have been beat more than once indeed We are in low Circumstances and are often accused by the Company Merchants for Cowries from Europe and the Pagoda we make from that Coast of the Corps to again take the Field, the Defiles surrounded by the Country People being already opted, This is ours and their Situation. Mr Dupleix tells us he is ready to treat and desires a Conference, We ask his Proposals first in Writing and if they can be reconcild with ours we'll hear Nabob Mahomed Ally Cawn enjoy the Subahship of the Carnatick and the King of Tanjore enjoy their Country without Molestation We would agree to a Conference, tell them distinctly as we suspect it might be designed to create a Jealousy in our Allies, and doubt his Intentions being correct, If Mr Dupleix will not hearken to Reason the next resort ourselves and the only way we have to destroy him is to draw off the Country Powers which could be effected any other way than by the last Proposal, so that the only Question is whether we should continue to Labour under the heavy weight which is now too much for our Strength or pursue the last Proposal as the only method that presents itself with a probability of success it. These Negotiations need not interrupt the necessary preparations for war, the Enemy lay their whole Stress on Seathonopoly, a large Store of Provisions should be thrown in as soon as possible, the Garrison supplyed with what Stores it may want and as ill Management has once very near ruined us we please to give such Orders as you judge may prevent the like in future

Ramah Naick when here intimated to me that an Expedient might be found which might probably satisfy all Parties which was that the Polegars of Seathonopoly should petition upon us Person to govern that Country which he believ'd would be agreeable to the King of Tanjore and the Polegars

Fort St George November 1753

Though his Proposal does not carry with it any great Appearance of Success yet you may hear what he has to say & see if any thing can be drawn from it

I have made you my Sentiments in my last Letter upon the State of Affairs and shall be obliged to you for yours

I shall discourse with the Vakeel & let you know the Result of Him

Sir

Your most Obedient Humble Servant

Thomas Saunders

Fort St George
5th November 1753

General Letter from Thomas Saunders Esqr to the Court

Follows

To the Honble Thomas Saunders Esqr
President & Governour &c Council
of Fort St George

Coll Davis 27th October 1753

Honble Sir & Sirs

My last to you bore date the 20th since when I have received your extraordinary Letter of the 18th July Expressions are what I shall not answer further than to refer them to the Sentiments of my Honble Masters who will be no Judges how much they become their publick Records and before whom I shall be able to bring back to my Letters as well as your with the greatest Satisfaction observing it to them to my Credit for the Justice Your speedy Declaration of Disapprobation of my Conduct I can construct no better than that it was a Determination you have made to condemn it Good or Bad before I set out, to let me know how much my Merits will be recommended by you when I come back. This you will give me Leave to say you does not at all disappoint me, nor shall it in the least affect my Diligence in the Service on which I am going. In my last I acquainted you that I should set out in three or four days, I was in readiness for it accordingly but the Weather setting in very violently has detained me till now, as no Boats could get over the Surf. I am this Instant stepping into the Boat for Negapatam where I hoped to meet with the Vessel of

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[illegible] which has come in this Country good to the Nyore and Marotta Force keeps the Nabob King of Tanjore and Mint Bay, how often Time they beat more than are [illegible] We very Low Conditions and are often reminded by the Large Remittances we receive from Europe and the Demands we make from the Coast of the Shops be again taken the Trade the Loser sustained by the Country Troops being mostly raptured, this is ours and their Situation. Mr Dupleix therefore is ready to treat and desires a Conference, We ask his Proposals first on Working and if they are be reasonable with ours, and that the Nabob Mahomed Ally Cawn enjoy the Subahship of the Carnatick and the King of Tanjore enjoy his Country without Molestation We would agree to a Conference; tells them before it as was suggested it might be designed to create a Jealousy in our Allies, and doubt his Intentions being sincere. If Mr Dupleix will not hearken to Reason the next must enforce and the only way we have to destroy them is to draw off the Country Powers which Work could be effected any other way than by the last Proposal. So that the only Question is whether we should condescend to labour under that heavy weight which is too much for our Strength in pursuit the last Proposal as the only method that presents itself with a probability of effecting it. These Negotiations and not interrupt the necessary Preparations for war, the Country lay their whole Stress on Trade being poly, a large Store of Provisions should be thrown in as soon as possible, the Garrison supplyed with what Sorts it may want and as the Management has since may more success as please to give such Orders as you judge may prevent the like in future.

Ramah Naick when here informed to us that an Expedient might be found which might probably take by all Parties which was that the Religion of Trichinopoly should yield upon a Person to govern the Country which he believe would be agreeable to the King of Tanjore and the Country

Fort St George November 1753

Though his Proposal does not carry with it any great Probability
of Success yet you may hear what he has to say as to the Event
and see if any thing can be drawn from it

I have wrote you my Sentiments on the present
State of Affairs and shall be oblidged to you for yours
I shall deserve with the Value and Impatience
your of the Result I am

Sir

Your most Obed.

Thomas Saunders

Fort St George
5th November 1753

General Letter from Thomas Saunders Esq

Duplicate

To the Honble Thomas Saunders Esqr
President Governour &c Council
of Fort St George

Fort St Davd 27th October 1753

Honble Sir & Sirs

My last to you bore date the 20th since
when I have received your extraordinary Letter of the 12th Instt
Expressions are what I shall not answer further than to refer
them to the Sentiments of my Honble Masters who will be very
Judges how much they become their publick Records and before
whose I shall be able to throw back to my Letters as well as your
with the greatest Satisfaction Attending it to them to say whether
how the Tyger Your cryptic Declaration of Disapprovall of my
Conduct I can construe no better than that it was a Determination
you have made to condemn it Good or Bad before I set out, to
let me Know how much my Merits will be recommended by
you when I come back, this you will give me Leave to express
you does not at all disappoint me) nor shall it in the least affect
my Diligence in the Service on which I am going In my last
I acquainted you that I should set out in three or four days, I
was in readiness for it accordingly but the Weather being so very
violently has detained me till now, as no Boats could get over
the Surf. I am this Instant stepping into the Boat for
Negapatam where I hope to meet with the King of

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Fort St George November 1753

Court shall follow the Letter of your Instructions to us
Fort St David
27 October 1753.

Court shall follow the Letter of your Instructions to us
guard you of all Occurrences and remain in the Form

Honble Sir & Sirs Your most Obedt humble Ser

Thomas Cooke

The foregoing Letter being very underwrote
and what ought not to be past over in Silence as it affects
Honor of Government that a due Subordination should be observ'd
and a proper Respect shown from the inferiour to the Superiour
Ordered that the said Letter do lye on the Table to be further
considerd at Mr Cooke's return from Camp

The President Layd before the Board the
Camp and Military Correspondence.

Captain Grenville at Changlepet reporting
Leave to come in to settle his Affairs the Board comply therewith

Abdul Rob Cawn writes that on Informa-
tion of a large Quantity of Jewels & Treasure being in Arcot he ordered a Guard to be set over it and the Doors
to be sealed up but that Captain Piggot had taken it by vio-
lence, broke the Seals, & possessed himself of all the Effects and
on his representing the Impropriety of such an Action he
struck him a very harsh Answer He also says that he intends
shortly to take the Field to settle his Country and collect the
Revenues towards discharging the Company's Debt and desires
that the Detachment at Trich may be ordered to join him
for that purpose

Ordered

Piggot, the President's Conduct in regard to the Complaint against Capt
interfering in the Correspondence to reprimand him severely for
on his giving Ear to and on matters of this Nature and
Satisfaction Abdul Rob Cawn immediate and ample
about the [illegible] and never presume to intermeddle
but attend to Affairs or Business belonging to the Nabob or Coast
the Province solely to that Post committed to their Charge

Fort. St George November 1753

As to the other Part of Abdul Bob [illegible]
is Agreed that Lyall Preston with the Detachment [illegible]
Command at Tripaty be ordered to march this way [illegible]
Sanaria in Cherry who is orderd to come hither to [illegible]
counts with Sumpetrow, and as soon as he has [illegible]
far as that he may proceed alone in Safety to return im-
diately and join Abdul Bob Cann and assist him in collecting
the Country between Arcot & Conjeveram but on no account
whatsoever to go further than Arcot, but in case they [illegible]
hither should be necessary he may be within a few days

It having been resolvd on Consultation the 4th
Inst. to send Rama Naik as Vakeel to the King of Tanjore
and a Gratification being usual on these Occasions Agreed
that a Present be made him of Cloth &c. to the Value of one
hundred Pagodas.

Meer Memnoor a Subidar of Sepoys having
in many Occasions behavd with Remarkable Bravery & re-
ceived many desperate Wounds without having ever had
any particular Reward, tis Agreed as an Encouragement
to him as well as others that he be presented with a Gold
Chain and Medal with the Company's Arms on one Side
and this Legend "The Gift of the Honble United East
India Company" and on the Reverse his own Effigies
with a Drawn Sword in his hand.

Nur Mysore Vakeel having been long detain'd
here Complaineing that his Distress for Money is so great
as to oblige him to pawn his Jewels; Agreed that five

Hundred

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Hundred of a Thousand Pagodas to Cost him on his Draught
on the Dalaway

Geo: Lawrence
Governor
Wm Brooke
John Smith
G Bourchier

To General Letter to Major Lawrence with a Commission to appoint
Courts Martial signed & sent The Letter is as follows
To Stringer Lawrence Esqr
Commander in chief of all the Company's
Forces in India

Sir

We wrote to you the 6th Instant in answer to
your Letter of the 21st Ultimo and promised in a few days to
send you a List of Officers and a Commission to hold Courts Mar-
tial they both come inclosed

We hear from Fort St David that Mr Kipping
has lately died there & about that Post of Fort becomes vacant
as you are best able to judge of the properest Person to succeed him
we desire you will recommend whom you think fit

Besides the Troops when you lately marched

Fort St George November 1755

which may be filld up with Volunteers from Your Garrison and deserveing; and James Ogilvy who has behaved gallantly at Tripaty.

As Lieut.t of the Bengal Detachment is Senior to any and an Ensign of Infantry and that Establishment are wanting, if you have any Serjeants at Camp deserving Promotion, we will grant Brevets.

The Commissions for holding Courts Martial you will observe in some respects different from that sent you in Mr. Speyer's time particularly as to the appointing a President instead of being the Eldest of the Board and the Power to fix Place when and where you are empowered to assemble the Courts Martial. We do not conceive that our Power extends any further for with respect to the Joint Mar. Act for punishing Mutiny & Desertion &c. expressly says "that the President of such General Court Martial shall neither be the Commander in chief or Governour of the Garrison where the Offender shall be try'd nor under the Degree of a Field Officer unless where a Field Officer cannot be had in which case the Officer next in Seniority to the Commander not being under the Degree of a Captain shall preside at such Court Martial, and so to grant to Time and Place though we think there is no doubt but that the obvious Sense of the Words in the Charter "Open Hostility will authorize you to hold Courts Martial in the Field where you are, yet we are of Opinion they cannot extend at present to the Company's Garrisons or Districts where Peace reigns.

We send you likewise a Commission for a Judge Advocate which we apprehend would be proper in case you should be under a Necessity of bringing any Delinquent to Trial, and the more so as we desire & strongly recommend that the Proceedings may be conducted with the greatest Regularity

and

Fort. St George November 1753

and authenticated Copies of them sent home to our Honble Masters for their Information.

The Reductions under which the Parliament have ally'd the Crown with Military Jurisdiction and the Caution with in delegating this to the Subjects make us more particularly efficient Reasons for you not to use the Power given you except in case of absolute Necessity

Fort St George
7th November 1753

Have &c
Sir

Your most Obedient Servants
Thomas Saunders
Charles Boddam
Henry Powney
Alexander Wynch
John Smith
Charles Bourchier

At a Consultation Present
Thomas Saunders Esq Gov. President
Charles Boddam Henry Powney
Alexander Wynch John Smith
Charles Bourchier

Monday
the 12th

There Genl Letters from Major Lawrence read as follows

Hondble Sir & Sirs (Sep)

Enclosed is a General Muster of the Troops under my Command taken by Mr Maisonneuve to acquaint you of the Death of two of our Officers, Lieut Symington & Ensign Kilpatrick, Ensigns Powis and two others Officers in Sickness, incapable of Duty, the two former and two Cadets of Mounds who cannot for a long time, if ever

Fort St George November 17[illegible]

to get for Duty. Have Letters make us on[illegible] part of Cuddalore and I know not how we shall be able to take the field on a proper time without more.

The Enemy have been Joyful since my last Europeans with three Guns, they after entrenches on[illegible] I should be glad to know what effect entend doing, we prolonging the war or making a Peace, the latter I hear nothing of and Mr Cooke is not yet arrived. If the former must certainly think that a Reinforcement is necessary I beg no Delays be made of you comes to that Determination of sending one. We have constantly been enfeebled to that some although we have kept up our Heads so long Even in Danger all at several Times, merely through not collecting our Force in a Body, if any Accidand should happen which God forbid by being in this Situation it must certainly be attended with the Ruin of us all. Let me therefore beg for once more you'll not delay making us strong enough to oppose the Enemy at any time.

I just hear the King of Mysore has sent Proposals of a Peace to the King of Tanjore which includes Morarow in the Treaty. When I hear the Particulars I will then inform you of them.

Morarow has long expected a Letter from the President, as it certainly is but a Piece of Civility we should show, but has not received one.

We have received by your Orders from Mr Starke Pag.s 3000 by Hircars I must request you'll desire him to continue to supply us but with more at a Time as the Roads are quite clear and we may not have Occasion by & by. I am Honble Sir & Sirs Your most humble and most Obedt Servt

Cuddalore
Novr 28: 1753.

P.S. Lawrence

Swiss Clerk going to wash in a River this Evening unfortunately drowned

To the Honble Thos Saunders Esqr President & Governor &c Council of Fort St George

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Fort St George November 1753

Honble Sir & Sirs (N 21

I have rcvd yours of the 12th instant, wherein
you [illegible] that my Accounts of the Number of the Enemy differ
widely but you will give me leave to judge of my own there
Report of my Forces at least by my Eye, as I have had more
Opportunities to see them. If you get your Intelligence from
when you did formerly you will please to remember when I
first came up to Trichinopoly you allowd me the Enemy were
not above five hundred strong, and I made it plainly appear
to you they were eleven hundred. As it is possible you may be
deceivd now. I can venture to assure you they outnumber us
greatly

I am very well pleasd with the Reward of
the Detachment sent to Devicotah, And will keep that Place
out of Danger of Insult and Sir Robt Ellis is ordered to
be sent for home. I have received an account of Mr Dumber's
& Captain Dalton's Adventures for your
service I wished on the Robt to desire that he would exercise
his Accounts before he went, and if they were approved of
sign them, which he has promised & also to send a Power to
his Dewan Sumpathrow to examine the Accounts with you and
right to close them

As to your why I inserted in the Treaty
of the Money being sent for the Roads &c when there was no
save an Expence of one and a half percent to the Company
it was that we might be certain of the time we should have
delayed, even the Last Rist was due the 21st and not yet paid
I am apt to suspect Buckenpeer's Delays are occasioned by the
French Action at Tanjour and can not blame your prop
Power there to look into our Interests

I am remarkd of your Commands

Fort St. George November

Said Enquiry should be made into Captain [illegible]
of the Lieut. now have sent him that Letter may be sent
Let me also desire that the same Evidence may be produced
examining Mr Dawson's Cause of Complaint against Capt
Pascal. If Captain Pascal is guilty he certainly does not deserve
to serve But if it be false I leave you to judge whether the
same Punishment would not be due to Mr Dawson. How was the
Mistake as to the Nature of the Lieut. Punishment
the Pillory but a Publick Whipping at the Cart
robbing one Mr Burton. I am certain Mr Nixon has
any such thing would be far from recommending such

As the Want of Officers is now almost
glad to have an account of their Rank that I might be able to
appoint the eldest Ensigns to act as Lieut. I have appointed
Mr Martin White Serjeant Major to be Adjutant in the room
of Mr Sommers deceased. One Mr Martin Le Clerk a common
Officer has drown'd himself. Mr Johnstone and Mr John Cooper
are appointed to do the Duty of Ensigns till your Pleasure is
known. Capt Charles Campbell and Mr William Rumbold are
oblig'd on account of their Healths to be sent to Fort St. Davids
Captain Ridge must follow

I beg leave to refer you to a Letter of mine of the
21st Instant that shews you how hearty the Nabob is in his Love
of Peace and that he entirely leaves it to you to make such
a one as would be proper both for his and your Interests
And for a Confirmation of it he has wrote to you inclos'd
Powers to act for him as you shall judge fit. You are sure
the Gentlemen it has ever been my Desire to have only such such
a one as will really secure us against the Designs of the
Duplicity, whose Sincerity you doubt as well as me

I believe you will be of my Opinion that on the
Nabobs Approach it would be proper to send somebody to know

Fort St George November 1755

Coyladdy
30th Oct 1755.

Fort St George Novembr 1753

in his Power to oppose us; will prevail And we have the Op-
portunity of making so good a Peace.

The Inconveniencies of not sending Money are very
obliging me again to mention it. Though by January or
the Month the Bills are not yet paid, how can we possibly
supply Trichenopoly with Provisions, when ever since it
have not received their Pay.

As the Nabob's Vakeel is expected ere two or three Days
I shall communicate to you such news as he may bring
to our Ears.

Coyladdy
31st Octr 1753

I am Honble Sir & Sirs Your most Obedient
Humble & Servant
Stringer Lawrence

To the Honble Thomas Saunders Esq
President and Governour &c Council
at Fort St George

Agreed that a Return of our Garison be sent
the Major that he may know our whole Strength and judge
how imprudent it would be to send any considerable Re-
inforcement to Camp, especially as Mr Dupleix has lately sent
several Boat Loads of Ammunition to Allumparva and Pon-
of the Enemy are in motion this way which may render it necessary
to make Occasional Detachments from hence for the Protection of
the Country, and in regard to the Majors Hint that it would
be proper the President should write to Monoggee, he be acquainted
it was through the Presidents Interest with the King of Tanjore
that Monaggee was relieved, who has not even wrote him a Letter
of Compliment upon it nor congratulated him on the last Victory
as usual & which the Nabob, King of Tanjore and all the
other Princes & Great Men have done, yet the President has above
wrote to him on it. That we are sorry the Army should
suffer any Inconveniencies for want of Money but the Dange
of sending it by Horses is so great that the Necessity of ordering

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a body Horse could not have tempted us to run the risk Hereby
the pressing Demands of the Army and Inducements made
it necessary. That our Sentiments have all along been and
still are for Peace and if the Terms on which the King of
Tanjore thinks he can conclude on with the Daloway are to
be obtained we hope the Nabob will not hesitate and we are
apt to think the King of Tanjore Danger is only to amuse
us he is aware to the Surrender of Trichinopoly into the
Mysore's hands. That we should be glad to be informed what
Quantity of Provision is in Trichinopoly

The President says before the Board the Company
and Country Correspondence

Captain Dalton at Trichinopoly writes that
he has mounted all the Cannon taken in the last Battle
upon the Ramparts and that he does not apprehend the Place
in any Danger from the Enemy now they to make an Attempt
That he has ordered the measure of Rice to be sold to the Inhabitants and sent to the Seapoys for a Rupee by which the
Company will be considerable Gainers and repeats his Request
to be relieved as he intends to go home in January

The President is desired to direct Captain Dalton
to send us an Account of what Provisions were laid in Trichinopoly, how much has been expended and how long the Remainder will subsist the Garrison and Inhabitants he also
is an Account monthly of all Provisions sold, the amount
thereof must be carried to the Company's Credit

Letter from Captain Lee at Changalpet informing
us of certain some Disputes in relation to a Number of
Cattle that had been taken from the Enemy Agreed
that he be cautioned not to suffer his People to plunder or
in any the Nabobs Friends but that every thing be quietly

Fort St George November 1765

Agreed that the Several Officers on the Coast & Garrisons be directed not to receive any Money here forwarded from the Nabobs People on Account of the Loans and that it be remitted here by Bills on the Sircars agreed we shall comply therewith

Amongst the Country Letters is one from Futteh Hussein Cawn Son of Innaum Saib representing the Ill Usage & Alliance that formerly subsisted between his Father & the English, and his Strict Attachment ever since to the Nabobs Interest, whose Officer has lately taken Possession of such Land as was Part out of the Jageer formerly granted him and desiring our Interposition with the Nabob Agreed that his Case be represented to the Nabob

The President acquaints the Board that he had discoursed with Vencatrow the Mysore Vakeel on the Terms of Peace proposed by the Nabob but he objected to two Articles viz: The Lords remaining as our Colleagues for a year until the Nabob were sooner settled, and the Sixteen Lacks to be paid to the Nabob, but upon these Articles he was of Opinion would be complyed with by the Rana of Mysore and proposed that he should be permitted to go to Chringapatam to negotiate it with the King himself which would shorten the Treaty as it must at all Events be ratified by him if it were negotiated with the Datonvay.

The Board are of Opinion that if Vencatrow be suffered his going to Chringapatam might have a good Effect but as he has been detained here a considerable time contrary to his Inclination it is not improbable but this may be an Artifice to get away, the President is therefore desired to propose to him

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Sent to leave his Wife and Family here as a Proof of his good Intentions, until he returns.

Pay. Saunders.
Geo. Pocklington
Henry Lovejoy
Wm Smith
John Sindth.
C. Bourdieu

15 General Letter to Major Lawrence agreeable to Resolution of Cons. 13th inst. sent as follows

To Stringer Lawrence Esq.
Commander in Chief of all the Company's Forces
in India

Fort St George 15th Nov. 1753

Sir,

We have receivd your Letters of the 27th 30th & 31st ult. we wrote you fully the 5th and agree to the

We are sorry to observe that Indisposition
of so many Officers, we have sent every one we can spare
in case of Vacancies they must be filld up with such as are
most capable on Camp for we have none here, comparing
the number of your Command and our Garrison, our Number
on the Hospital exceeds yours, the Coffreys dye two or
three daily and those who are not sick are of no Service
Inclosd is a Return of our Strength by which you will judge

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how incapable we are of ordering you any Reinforcement of
Consequence; Mr Dupleix has sent several Boats of Ammu-
nition and Stores to Allumparva, the Enemy on motion
Parties are in motion near Sadras and we expect the Cavalry
from Changleput will be harassed as last year; Mr Hardy's
Situation demanded a Reinforcement, we have accordingly
sent him thirty men.

When Monsieur was in disgrace the President wrote
his Influence with the King to restore him and wrote him
but he did not reply; on the late Victory the Nabob, King of
Tanjour, Arcoady Cawn, and Abdul Rob Cawn wrote Let-
ters of Congratulation but he did not; the President
wrote them

When bad Weather prevented for some days the
Dispatch of the Prince George we remitted you Bills for Sg.
10,000 that it might be of no Inconvenience. Mr Starke has
again sent you some by way of Devecotah, nothing but
the pressing necessity you urge to us can induce us to this
way of sending Money by Hircars, We dislike the Event
may not be attended with Success. Vencatrow being so much
of Money for Expences we thought it best to supply him
inclosed is his Bill on the Dubash for Sg. 1000.

Please to acquaint us for how many months
there is Store in Trichinopoly

In regard to the Lieut at Vizagapatam we
shall only remark that he has been there near ten Years
Gunners Mate or Gunner; Mr Horne thoroughly acquainted
with the Arbitrary Treatment this Man received from Mr
Burton speaks well of him and Captain Crompton before
ago on making Enquiry of Mr Byrch of his Character and
informed he was unjustly treated; nay more, Captain Sprot
can tell you that Capt. Crompton associated with him freely

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Till a private Guard were Inquired into Mr Dawes's Conduct concerning the Horses and his Behaviour to Moor to the first he replies, that he supplyd them with every thing they asked for, to the latter that he knows of nothing but that having but one Jemgle Horse he could not conveniently turn out of it) We expect soon to see when we shall enquire into Captain Percals Affairs)

You need not doubt of our taking the proper Measures if Balaxavow comes this way, he last year made fair promises and broke them, our Vakeel was with him but what could he do Chelavick against twenty five Lack of Rupees, if he agrees He Vakeel Says have accommodated Affairs and that he is going to Adarra; he also said that most of the leading men in Salabat Jungs Camp would gladly be rid of the Scoundrel that a Sebak was appointed to Golcondah but Mons Bussy spoke to him and that he is negotiating with Balaxavow nothing of certainty is to be expected from this Quarter, we shall make the most of any Advantages that offer)

Our former Letters will sufficiently convince you we have a Force absolutely necessary and the best reason for the Measure is that the Enemy are stronger than we are and therefore the Forces dont immediately under us, the 22d of the 23d you desire we would let you know what we intend doing; whether Peace or War and that you have nothing of the Latter; the Nabobs Answer to that did not arrive with us till the 30th which is two days later than the date of your Letter, so that we could say nothing on that head; the Nyzam Vakeel has been dismissed with he says he will agree to all the Terms except the fifteen Lack of Rupees to the Nabob and one years time to be allowed for the Delivery of the Fort, which the Gateway seems jealous of on these Points he has no Instructions, but believes by

Fort St George Novem. 1753

Application to the King of Mysore there may be granted
never what you say in regard to the Dalloways and that the
of Tanjore says he believes he can furnish the Affair for want
Lack on the Security of Tinnevelly and Madura. These Lands
are so very advantageous that we hope the Nabob will not
hesitate a moment and desire you will use all possible Means
to bring it to a Conclusion.

The King of Tanjour made Offers last year but it
came to nothing. Our Intiments are that he will if possible
prevent the last Article. The Nabob's Affairs are such as will
not admit of Delay nor should we be diverted from pursuing the
probable Measures

We are Sir

Your most Obedient Servants
Thomas Saunders
Charles Boddam
Henry Powney
Alexander Wynch
John Smith
Charles Bourchier

Fort St George
15th Novr. 1753.

At a Consultation Present

Thomas Saunders Esq Gov. President
Charles Boddam Henry Powney
Alexander Wynch John Smith
Charles Bourchier

Monday
the 19th

Three General Letters from Major Lawrence
read as follows viz.

(No 10)

Honble Sir & Sirs

This is to acquaint you with the
Death of Lieut Morrice, I have appointed Mr Thomas Rum-
bold in his room as Quartermaster till your Pleasure is known
His Care and Diligence which he acted for Mr Morrice during

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Her Hands, and the Character he has maintained ever since he has been with us of a good and carefull Officer makes me recommend him as I think he is very proper for the Purpose

I am sorry to inform you that one hundred Seamen who are entitled to their Discharge from the Service, most of them near two and a half, by which our Fleet Men of the Infantry and Artillery are leaving us. I make sure of all the Seamen Save Masters Mates which I intend to make them stay, but the Example of the Bombay Detachment frightens them

You are sensible Gentlemen these poor Fellows were sent down to Quarters in order to be shipped off for Bombay But instead of that were again sent out on the field for the very Service you wanted them, Since we must have but not such as are forced to serve against their Will. I am desired to persuade them to stay, but when a Man reminds me his Right and appeals to the Promises that have been made to them of having it, I should be sorry to be Master of the Art that could elude such just demands. They must have Cloathing, the Sergeant who commands them has no money left to leave in England which he must have by his Absence and wants so much to go that he is willing to relinquish his Demands of Pay and Cloathing on Board so that he can but get home, I must be oblig'd to give them their Discharge and also send the other Men back to you which ought to be sent off the first Opportunity, to prevent their Complaints otherwise the Men must not making them afraid of being sent in the like Manner

Hafiz Addy Cawn has join'd the Enemy. This is the fourth Reinforcement since our last Engagement and not the least Information have I received of them marching from any of our Settlements so that they are join'd before I know even of their coming. The last Detachment is pretty

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considerable. I beg Gentlemen you will not be unaware as to their Numbers, which I can assure you are much superior to ours.

No Money come up yet nor the Bills drawn that the Men cannot yet receive their Pay for the first two of this month. I have but one acting Captain with me in the Field and the other Officers all young ones lately made The rest are sick and wounded Instead of the Reputation that would be necessary for the Troops at this unactive time of the Year, on account of the Weather, They are obliged to lodge in Huts, low that hold out the rain and all of them damps, so that I fear when the Season comes on for taking the Field, we shall send our Invalids weaker by Double than when first we went into Cantonments. Had Money been sent in time sufficient to have secur'd Cuchenopoly, we might have march'd into Good Quarters at our first months; strengthen'd our men, and made us ready and able to open the Campaign at a proper Season besides saved the Expence of Batta to the Company

There is no news of Mr Cooke nor any Letter from Tanjore, I have done my Duty Gentlemen in acquainting you of the Consequences of not having somebody there to support our Interests; I am asham'd to repeat it; If you think it unnecessary why not tell me of it, But if you will may it not be call'd a great Neglect

The Surgeons have informed me that Capt Kilpatrick's Wounds will not suffer him to bear the Fatigues of a Campaign but that he may be able to do Garrison Duty. He is at present at Cuchenopoly, if you approve of it I shall leave him there, as Capt Dalton desires to be relieved by the 25th of this month. I shall appoint two the most senior to command, till he or any one else is pitched on by your Honr to command, till he or any one else is pitched on by your Honr

When you think proper to fill up the Vacancies

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Vacancies of Lieutenancies I must beg you will rectify a Mistake you have made by making Mr Wallace (Who tho' Elder than his Brother Mr Thomas, Though he is the youngest by Birth, yet he is the eldest Officer by being a Lieutenant before him)

Supposed you in my Letter of the 30th Oct. I had appointed Mr Martin Vice Sergeant Major, to act as Adjutant in the Room of Mr Lawrence till your Pleasure was known. His good Services and Capacity entitle him to that Reward. I hope you will think him worthy of it by approving the Choice

Captaddy
Novem 1753

I am Gent.n

Your most Obedient
and most humble Servant
Stringer Lawrence

To The Honble The Saunders Esqr President
&c &c Council of Fort St George

Honble Sir & Sirs (N 11)

I had three more deserted last Night and I have three more in confinement for that Crime I do not choose to do any thing by my own Authority (tho the Necessity of it will bear me harmless) when I can have a proper Legal Power given me. You see there how necessary it will be to send me up those Powers which your Charter entitles you to give me for Holding of General Courts Martial or I must be obliged to proceed as I used to do and make Examples to prevent the Evil spreading. I cannot nor will not serve on such Terms as confines me in my Operations or leave me exposed to the Laws of my Country if you have it in your Powers to give me a proper Liberty.

Captain Campbell had my Leave yesterday to go to Fort St Davids on account of his Health. Our Number of Sick increases daily, occasioned by the Damps and wet which the Tents will not keep out, so that at the Season for opening of the Campaign I am afraid we shall

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find ourselves weaker than when we first went on to Carnatic ments; however you will not think I hope of sending any the Reinforcement to and till I shall judge proper as there no Place to lodge the men, our Village being scarce large enough to contain our present Numbers

I received the Bills on Backwagie for five thousand Pagodas but not one farthing of the ten thousand paid yet. I acquainted you once before what I thought were the Reason why the Payments were delayed, but I am now sure it is the French Faction at the Court of Tanjore that have as yet time of it while there is nobody there to oppose them. I have had Advice however that Mr Cooke is at last set out; I hope he may come in time to put a stop to it

Cuddalore
5th Novem 1753

I am Gentlemen
Your most Obedient and
most humble Servant
J. Lawrence

Before I had closed this there was
an account of part of the ten thousand
Pagodas being at last come.

To the Honble Thomas Saunders Esq
Governor & President &c Council

Honble Sir & Sirs

I have received yours of the 25th
October. As I had the honour to acquaint you before of the
Delays I met with in the Payment of the Bills drawn on
Backwagie, I flatterd myself my word was sufficient without
telling me "These People assure us of their greatest Readiness
to negotiate them" For a proof of this Readiness they owe
eleven thousand Pagodas on arrears to us though we are in
the greatest want of Money and continually pressing them. As
Mr Cooke is on the Spot he will be able to confirm what I
say which perhaps then may gain Belief. As to the Bills
for ten thousand more which your informs me are sent I have
not yet received. Rogues in war are unavoidable but rebellion

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It is better by delays in sending the proper Supplies to expose a Mutiny in the Army, Desertion and the Want of Provisions to run the Chance of losing a small Sum of Money by following the Method propos'd I refer to you

If on the main Land that your answers to my Letters Gentlemen are referr'd to our Honble Masters, the common Cause should suffer Say how shall we answer that to our Honble Masters

Captain Ridge shall acquaint you with the Particulars of that Affair between him and Mr Dawson

I never knew Vacancies meant to be kept open for a twelve month but when Officers that are dead were here by the Orders of the Company and to succeed to such Vacancies that may happen upon or after their Arrival

I refer you to my last about the Affair of General Courts Martial, I have now besides the Prisoners mentioned in you in that Letter, one more for Murder

As I find my Health every day impairing and my Sight growing worse, of these Inconveniences encreased I must be obliged to remind to some of our Gentlemen to endeavour to succeed I have acquainted you of this in time in case it should happen that you may look out for some proper Person to command our my Absence Captain Dillons is now the next Officer but one to me but as he is entirely an Artillery Officer he might be at a Loss to know how to manage a Body of Infantry Besides he speaks no English and is quite a Stranger to the Affairs of this Country

Here follows a Copy of that Paragraph in Capt Crompton's Letter relating to Mr Lindt's Court Mar

"There is one Eben Seaton [illegible] was made a Lieut of the Train that Station has been adopted at the Alley staff at Fort St David for stealing three Chests of Cloves

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"from Mr Augustus Burton, After he was turn'd out of the
"Bounds he offer'd his Service to Mr Dupleix, from thence
"he went and serv'd the Moors and after that to Nazeer
"and negociated an Engagm Commission which would have
"been granted to him but Capt Holland and the rest of the
"Officers declared they would not roll with him which was
"the Cause that he miscarried. I thought proper to acquaint
"you with it that the Corps should not reflect on me for
"concealing the Affair. Patrick McPgot of it as soon as
"it came to my Knowledge. Serjeant Dugley who belongs
"at that time to Capt Morgans Company Says that Sentence
"put in Execution, as for my own part I have declared
"I will not roll with him. I request your Opinion thereon

Gogladdy
8th Nov. 1753

I am Gentlemen
Your most Obedient and
most humble Servant
S. Lawrence

The Honble Thomas Saunders Esqr
President and Governour &c Council.

Agreed that in answer to the Major's several Letters he be acquainted that we should gladly supply him with Money more regularly if it were in our Power but we know of no better means at present than by Bills on the Shroffs, which it is certain may sometimes occasion Delays as they send the Money by Peons who may be retarded by bad Weather or other Accidents. That we are concerned to observe the Sickness and Death amongst the Officers as we are at a Loss how to supply their Places and desire the Major's Opinion whether it will interfere with the Officers here if we were to write to Bombay, since we are informed there are several Supernumerary for such as they can spare and also to Bengal to engage as Volunteers for the Service on the Coast such young Gentlemen on board the European Ships as may be willing to enter on promise of Succeeding as Vacancies

happen

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happen That we are from leaving any Complaints should be
made with the Men whose Times are expired Except those
Discharged but at the same time should be glad if Encouragement
and Encouragement as far as 10 L a Man could prevail on
them to continue however if they cannot or being dissatisfied we
think it is better to send them on As to the Company's
Detachment there can be but very few Europeans for most
of them returned with Captain Andrews the rest are Corporals
and we do not see that great Hardship complained of once a
Soldier who enlists himself is to serve at any of the Company's
Settlements whereof may be necessary That we approve
the Appointment of Captain Kilpatrick to command on Trichinopoly as well as the Nomination of Lieut Brumbold to be
Quarter Master of Infantry That it is true Mr Thomas Rawlinson does rather himself as a Volunteer before the Brothers
but as they both began to act together and went to Camp
at the same time the elder was preferred which at that
time seemed agreeable to the younger however as the
Major desires it may be otherwise we acquiesce, that we
are unwilling to hear of his Independation which we hope
will not prevent his continuing in the Command

General Letter from Thomas Cooke Esqr and
as follows

Hon^ble Sir & Sirs

Seyour 2^d November 1753

I acquainted you under date the 27^th
Ult^o of my Departure from Fort St David & arrived at
Negapatam the 29^th and at this Place the 5^th Instant, but
it being in time of a high Surf was obliged to wait till
last night before I could get Ashore to the King, when
I acquainted him with every thing contained in your In-
structions, omitting only the giving up of Trichinopoly which

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I shall defer mentioning till the last Extremity. He says himself very desirous of a Peace and if the Terms were equal all to the Nabob he had no Objection to them, further than if the Fort of Trichenopoly should be continued for his other Property he thought it would be prudent to remove that part of the Districts for the Maintenance of the Garrison that must reside in it; for this he offers Seringam, Vatoor and Chambo Casheram as necessary to be considered were that he should readily consent to the Nabobs Measures That he had likewise made some considerable Advance to the Nabobs Account which he relys on being repaid immediately after he has discharg'd his Debt to the Company I told him that the several Articles I had communicated had drawn out a long time & that it was probable from the Success the Nabob has since met with Matters might be yet made more favourable which I should be able to advise him of on discoursing with the Nabob Upon the whole I can only say that he appeard in general to be very easy and well affected to any Steps that the Nabob might take however that as he has made any Promises in espousing his Cause he trusts that both He and the English will always regard his Interest. His Sundarlook to assure them of on the Strongest Terms. Likewise applyd to him in Behalf of the Paddy which he had engaged to send to Trichenopoly which he tells me he has already fully compliid with. This being the material of my discourse with him I took my Leave and propose to proceed to Camp as soon as I receive an Answer from the Major to a Letter I wrote him immediately on my Arrival here to know if he has any Thing to offer further for my Execution before my Departure. I should be very glad to observe the greatest Circumspection on all my Interviews with his Majesty but I fear his Curiosity such that there is no Possibility of discoursing him in

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in private, he has always One of his Nobility present and
amongst whom is his Prime Minister Seeyad who is constantly
Interpreter to his Majesty Next Person I am informed is the only
Enemy I have to the General Cause. I will not therefore suppose
now if upon your arrival Occasion may first it may difficult to per-
his Majesty a proper Understandings of Affairs. You enjoined me
that you had determined to break through the Custom of
large ones I should agree with you ought to be rewarded
giving entirely empty handed I am informed that not at all
succeed, and am fully convinced it was for no other Reason
that I was detained here two days before I could get embarked
and had I not at last purchased a piece of Scarlet and
of Aurora it's likely I might not have seen him yet. The
I gave to his Majesty and am still apply it to by one of his
Servants who constantly waits on me upon all Messages
from him for 3 Years but as I know not how such Things
will be approved after the special Directions you have given
me against it I am oblig'd to desist If this should occasion
any Neglect on them in making a proper delivery of my
Answer you will take the Consequence upon yourselves for
you are pleased to send me discretional Orders regarding
such Affairs

Since writing the foregoing Lines received
the Mayor's Answer He gives me several Grounds how
to act and assures the Continuing here if your Ho-
nours will admit of it, but as I am particularly enjoined
to discourse with the Nabob and having many Subjects to en-
ter with the Mayor upon I intend to proceed to Camp to morrow
and if after adjusting Matters there, the Mayor should renew
me to return here I intend to comply accordingly He has
desired me to talk to Bucanjee regarding his Delays and
Payment of your Bills. I have therefore sent for him and
will get him to explain that matter if I can this Evening He

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Managed but as I have nothing to carry on my Bus.
no confirmed my Post will be coldly received therefore
I must leave without giving Offence to some others but
however be ready to do all I can to comply with any Orders
ons you may think proper to send me and remain &c &c &c

To the Honble Tho.s Saunders Esq.r Honble Sirs & Sirs Your most Obed.t Humble Ser.t
President and Governor &c.a
of Fort St George. Thomas Cooke

Agreed that Mr Cooke be permitted to
make such Presents as are absolutely necessary for the Interest
of Affairs but that he be cautioned to be as sparing as possible
and to keep the Expences within moderate Bounds

Major Lawrence in his Letter of the 27.th
October having intimated that the King of Tanjore desired
he can conclude a Peace with the King of Myssore for such
Sum of Rupees Agreed that Mr Cooke be directed to pro-
pose to the King of Tanjore that if he can effect an Accom-
modation, the Nabob will mortgage the whole Pachenagetty town
&c to him as a Security for the repayment of the money

The Country Correspondence laid before
the Board.

Captain Pigou writes the President that
he had given Abdul Rob Cann full Satisfaction on the
Complaint mentioned in consultation the 5.th Instant, what
he declares was very unjust as he had not professed him-
self of our Article on the Coast as the Nabob mentions

Letter from Lieut.t Preston at Tripaty ac-
quainting an account of the Money he has received for payment
of the Seapoys he also mentions that Sawaroa Chetty
last applyed to him for a Company of Seapoys to remain
at Tripaty for the protection of that Place and a Letter
from Sawaroa Chetty is also read wherein he requests the
same and represents that without this Assistance the Town
will be entirely round by the Enemy

Agreed that if Sawaroa Chetty will

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Undertake to pay the Bills a Company of Seapoys to be
at Tripaty as desired and that Orders be sent to Capt Lin
son accordingly

Letter from Abdul Rahman entreating
to him from Mootan ally Cawn proposing certain Terms
which he is willing to submit himself and acknowledge the
Nabab, whereon Abdul Rahman desires the Protection of
our

Agreed that it be recommended to Mootan
Cawn to accommodate Affairs with Mootan Ally Cawn on
best Terms he can having it to be considered whether the
proposals are reasonable or not

The President also laye before the Board
Translation of a Letter from the Nabab to Sampetroo with
raising and empowering him to examine the Accounts with
the Company and to adjust & pay the same

Ordered that an attested Copy of the said
Original Letter be made by the Secretary and preserved for
Voucher for the Authenticity of the said Account when paid

The Board acquainte the Board that he
has appointed below that Capt Lin at Chingleput keeps the
and a Party of men with the Nabab's Standard to attend him
pay their Batta one month whereof the Batta thereof is to
garrison each amounts to one Pag Agreed that he
accommanded and directed to return the same to the Nabab

Draught of several Letters from the Co
to Mahomed Alum of Tripatt Sydee Saeb Cawn the Custom
Fabricius &c was read and approved

Eyre Coote
Geo Stratton
Tho Saunders

Fort St George November 1758

21 Received the following General Letters from Major Lawrence & Thomas Cooke Esqr

Honble & Sir (No 13) Coptoddy 11 Nov 58

Mr Cooke arrived here yesterday from Tanjore and has this day a Conference with the Nabob, I suppose he will have the honour of informing you how it

Captain Dalton has settled his Affairs which the Nabob has approved & hath Captain Kilpatrick recovers every day and will be very able to take charge of his Corps by the time he intends leaving it

As the Troop is vacant by the Death of Lieut Rogerson I desire you will please to appoint somebody to succeed to the Vacancy

The want of Money is so great with us that we have been obliged to apply twenty eight Thousand Rupees money assigned by the King of Tanjore according to the Treaty to the Supply of Gooty, the ever pressing Occasions, the Labouring of our Troops Mr Cooke can inform them & Buchanan can tell you what he will

I received a Letter from Capt Polier of Trouble he complained not that he could not get any Cloth out of the Company's Magazine for the cloathing of his Troops without paying ready money which it was impossible for him to do without receiving his Off Reckonings I have wrote to him to apply to Mr Hones for Payment for to pay him what Off Reckonings are due and then he will very willingly as every Officer shall pay for his Cloth I hope you will approve this order to prevent any Inconveniency arising from the Men not being duly cloathed

I am Honble Sir Your Most Obedt Humble Servant

Gentlemen S Lawrence

To Honble Ft St George
Per Ships Vansittart

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Honble Sir & Sir

Camp 12th Novr 1753

I addressed you from Tanjour under date the 2d Instant
which I am in the 10th and had a Conference with the
Col yesterday in which I communicated to him the substance
of my Instructions and let him know from you in the
strongest Manner I was capable how absolutely necessary it
was for his Interest to ack some Method of Accommodation with
the Dalaway, he told me it was a thing he ardently desired
of and that he had sent you some late Proposals regarding
it and acquainted me with the particulars, in Obedience of
an Intimation given him by the King of Tanjour who
till I have that he relieves the Dalaway may be brought to
compromise any thing for 6 Lacks of Rupees, giving him
only the Countries of Madura and Tinnivelly on Mortgage
till the same be paid. On this he assured me he
be highly interested. There is however a very material
circumstance to me I understand the Dalaway has long
since declared that he will attend of no Correspondence from
the Nabob and that he is determined to keep the field
Man that shall come with any Letters from him
have given me a List he has laid within the Nabobs
Major Lawrence thinks it will be prudent to withdraw any
of our Troops while it. I have therefore in obedience
Instructions to that by the return of the King of Tanjour
Peshcan I have applyed for a copy of my Letter annexed
If the undertaking should acquaint you that till I receive
fresh Powers can do nothing further and as only way of
have effectually to make an Engagement therewith were with
it to be effected a Cessation. I submit the to your consideration
Sir & Sir your most obedt
Hon Sir Thomas Saunders Esq
President & Governor &c &c &c Fort St George

Thomas Cooke

Fort St George November 1753

From Thomas Cooke Esq. to the King of Tanjore dated the

When I had the honour of talking with you last
you all my Business. I have this day conversed with the
and have good hopes that by your help a Peace may be concluded
on much easier Terms than those I mentioned to you, but there is
a great Difficulty how to confer with the Dalaway; I cannot get
mail from him nor will he as I am informed receive any Letter from
us. I have one directed to him from the Governour of Madras
of which a Copy of the Contents read on your ancient, I must take
wise to send him a Letter from myself to let him know
the Business I am come upon and that with his Permission
I will try all in my Power to negotiate a Peace on any rea-
sonable Terms. A Copy of this Letter I will also let you see
and desire of you to let me know if you can undertake to
convey them to him; It must be done as privately as poss
be that the French may not get any Knowledge of it for
if they do that Scheme will be utterly spoilt. The Nabob tells
me that it is your Opinion the Dalaway may be made to
testify it by giving him a certain Sum and to mortgage to
him the Countries of Madura and Tinnevelly till he is re
be paid. The Nabob will be very glad to consent to this, if
therefore you think you can manage it in that Manner he pro
to try your Influence with the Dalaway and inform me of the
Success; I have a great desire to finish this Business as
much as possible to the Content of all Parties and as I
am well convinced of your Friendship have taken the Liberty
to request your help in it. Wishing always for your Health
and Happiness.

22 Signd and Sent the following General Letter to
Major Lawrence and Thomas Cooke Esq.

To Stringer Lawrence Esq.

Sir We wrote you the 15th since which we have received

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Fort. St George November 1753

Sir

Your Appointment of Mr. Thomas Rumbold meets with our Approbation, he and his elder Brother take post Precedence to Capt. Adams, the Commission of the elder is of a prior Date as it appears, how the younger was far from disapproving it, Instance it shall be settled

We are sorry some of the best men of the Infantry and Artillery desire their Discharge and with Permission and Encouragement would engage them to relist, Complaints are not to be made, pleased to enquire whether they have been preferd impartially by their Officers. There are very few Europeans belonging to the Bombay Detachment, the best are Upstarts when a Soldier enters he is sworn on any of the Companys Settlements where they are required and therefore it can be no hardship. We to be Strong enough to send them where that they may be ready to go by such Opportunities as may offer, if the Officers will make Applications and draw for their Cloathing in a regular Manner, we cannot see that they have any cloathing but cannot subvert all Rules in our Books and Accounts, this is the Case in regard to Capt. Adams Complaint, Cloathkeepers delivered to his Recruits would not give Credit, the Military Paymaster will satisfactorily account for the Off Reckonings with him according to the Regulations we shall enquire into this Affair

The only Reinforcement that we have heard of being sent to Tschenapoly was about 100 Men, Supplies of Provision and Ammunition have been sent and Captain Caldwell Town is by Advices secured now in Pondicherry

Regard to supplying you with Money we make use of all means in our Power by Bills and Remittances in Specie, you probably may not be acquainted with the Nature of Remittances by Bills, in the first Place it is with Difficulty that we can procure those Bills or

Fort St George November 1760

They have not money at Pondanopoly, but are oblig'd after receiving the money here to send it by Peons, the same who serve us having been Bearers of Pondicherry also so consequently are provided with Dustucks from both Parties you are sensible of the Badness of the Weather for the month's past which is in some measure the Occasion of the French Troops at Golcondah have received no pay these four Months and such is the Difficulty Men Meet with meets with to remit it, that he has been obliged to have Recourse to Arbitrary and compulsive Methods by imprisoning the Soucars, please to let your Commissary send an Account of what you want monthly

Mr Cooke was ordered to proceed to Sangor the 12th September and Ramah Naick has proceeded to reside at Sangor or be in Camp as Occasion shall require

We have wrote you fully concerning Officers and Vacancies

We can say no more in regard to the Land at Vizagapatam than that upon Enquiry of Persons of Credit we dont find he has been culpable, that Captain Compton knew this and that his Information seems to be a Pique, Captain Grant resided a considerable time at Vizagapatam and can probably acquaint you with the whole Affair

We are sorry to observe the great want of Officers, if it is said there are a great many Supernumerary at Bombay, if you think it will not affect the Service on this Coast we will write for them and as there may probably be several young Gentlemen on Leave we believe many Ships at Bengal that would be glad to enter as Volunteers we shall signify to the Gentlemen the Method they are to provide as such

We have a great Concern to hear of your ill State of Health and to observe at the same time with

Fort St George November 1753

[illegible] you that there is no one fit for the Command, how fatal might the Consequence be if we were reduced to that Station for [illegible] hope as the [illegible] Weather is now set in we will prevail on your Health

You will please to appoint to the Coast of Coro such Officer as is most capable for that

We refer you to our Letter to Mr Cooke for what regards a Treaty We are

Fort St George
22d Novr 1753

To Your Most Obedient Servants
Thomas Saunders
Charles Boddam
Henry Penny
Alexander Wynch
John Smith
Charles Bourchier

To Thomas Cooke Esqr

Sir

We have received your Letter of the 12th Instant with Copy of what wrote to the King of Tanjore

That he should not be ready to make what regards Trichinopoly as we were then expecting Mr Major wrote us, as you observed that Nabob has told you that the King of Tanjore said he believed he could accommodate Affairs for Co Lack of Rupees on the Security of Madura and Dindigul, the Terms are so advantageous that they don't admit of any the least hesitation but should be accepted There is too much reason to believe that as intended to amuse us, how often have these Princes done offered and always repented, the Truth is he cannot collect the other Measures, as he has ordered into the Alliance and punish the Nabob and we must be careful to preserve his Friendship and if he

Fort St George November 1752

mortgage the whole Country to him if he will be sincerely and settle Matters with the Dalawoy and be responsible for our Debt; if he is sincere surely these Terms will be acceptable. Concatrom telling the President the Dalawoy objects to accommodating Affairs by receiving a Part of the Country as Security for the Payment of the Money, we think of sending a Person to talk with the King of Mysore himself as the most ready way to reconcile the Demands the Nabob makes.

We have sent Ramata Nauck to Tanjour who may be serviceable to you as an Interpreter and the President on his Letter to that King has desired him to be more expeditious in transacting his Affairs.

We did not suppose you could be necessitated for a few yards of Broad Cloth, as it was said you carried a Quantity with you; what is necessary cannot be avoided. Let your Expences be as moderate as possible.

Marriage is reported to us as in the Seasons Interest, Succopee Nauck the contrary; the former you will cultivate a good understanding with and keep fair with the latter.

Inclosed is a Letter to the King of Tanjour and one to the Nabob. We are

Sir

Your most Obedient Servants

Thomas Saunders
Charles Boddam
Henry Powney
Alexander Wynch
John Smith
Charles Bourchier

Fort St George
22d Novem 1752

Fort. St George November 1753

At a Consultation Present

Thomas Saunders Esq[r] Gov[r]. Presd[t]
Charles Boddam Henry Powney
Alexander Wynch John Smith
Charles Bourchier

Monday
Nov[r] 20[th]

General Letter from Capt. John Caillaud
by order of Major Lawrence read as follows

Honble Sir & Sirs

The Major last night was attacked with a severe fit which alarmd us greatly. He continues very weak after it and complains of a violent pain in his Stomach. Doctor Orme his friends humbly desire he intends answering your Honours of the 5[th] Instant and has also desired me to have the honour of acquainting you that he intends setting out for Fort St David to try what a Change of Air may do for him. I am with great Respect

Gentlemen

Your most Obedient and
most humble Servant
John Caillaud

Coyladdy
15[th] Novem[r] 1753

The Honble Thomas Saunders Esq[r]
Gov[r] & Council of Fort St George

As it is to be feared the Major's Indisposition may oblige him to leave the Army and come on for the Recovery of his Health in which case it is absolutely necessary some capable Officer should be appointed to take the Command; and the Major in his Letter of the 5[th] Instant prefers to all recommends such a provisional Appointment. Agreeing in his Sentiments that Captain Dalton, the eldest Officer on Coast is not equal to that Charge being an entire Stranger in the

Fort St George November 1753

to come into Fort St. David; Mr Starke be directed to consult with him and if there be no Objection to Captain Donald Campbell (the eldest Captain on the List Capt. Dalton having declared his Intention of resigning) who has generally the Character of a brave Officer, that he be ordered to repair to Camp and take upon him the Command of the Army 'till the Major may be in a Condition to resume it.

The President lays before the Board the following Country & Correspondence viz.t

A Letter from the Marquis Dupleix dated 12 November (N.o 15) in answer to the Presidents dated 29 Nov.r (N.o 14) wherein the Board are of Opinion that as the acknowledging of Mahomed Alley Cawn for Subah of the Carnatic is the only Point on which a Treaty with Mr Dupleix can be commenced, it is needless at present to append [illegible] instances since his Sentiments appear very plain against this Point throughout his Letter and particularly in this Passage "It is therefore in vain to imagine that his Rank & Mahomed Alley's Presence in those Parts would establish him in Quality; I say no &c. I will therefore always maintain that to support Mr Law in those Parts is to feed a Flame that will never cease as long as he is there". It is therefore Resolved that in the Answer Mr Dupleix be asked whether he will come to an Accommodation with the Nabob or not, and that he be told if he will not, the Nabob is determined to defend his Subahship; if he will we conceive the other Difficulties for Starke may be easily settled. And Dongel of a Letter from the President to Mr Dupleix of the 29th and approved as entered in the Secret Correspondence N.o 16

A Letter from Sayder Lascar [illegible] acknowledges the Receipt of the President's but in answer to

Fort St George November 1753

[illegible] in a manner as his former, he expresses a Satisfaction
at the Attachment of the English to Salabat Jungs Interest,
desires the Continuance of it and says that Peace is the
world to fulfils the Country but is silent as to the Manner in
which he intends to do it nor does his Answer give any Light
Nabob Anwarudy Cawn brought a Letter from the Nabob
Vakeel on Salabat Jungs Camp which accompanies the
foregoing says that he was ordered by Sydee Sawee Cawn
to advise us to continue firm to the Nabob and that a Body
would be sent him on a short time

The President acquaints the Board that
agreable to Resolution of Consultation the 12th Instant he
had acquainted Seveston that as he was of Opinion the
King of Mysore might be brought to consent to the Terms
proposed by the Nabob, he (the President) was desirous
he should proceed to Seringapatam upon this Message
and proposed to him to leave his Wife and Family here
as a Mark of his good Intentions, but that he absolutely
rejected it and declared he had rather dye than submit
to an Action that (according to the Custom of this People)
would reflect Shame and Dishonour on him offering at the
same time to take the most solemn Oath to whom whether
he succeeded or not and observed (very justly) that the Enemy
his Family here might even be of Disservice to the Nabob
were he sent on as it might give the King or Sidee that
they were detained as Prisoners here and that his Proposals
were intended only as a means to procure their Enlargement
Agreed therefore that he be permitted to go with his
Family and that Major Brereton a capable Person for

Fort St George November 1st

Captain Pigot at Arcot writes that the Amildar of Conjeveram having lately attack'd a Party of the Enemy near Outramalore, drove them from the Hill, killd a Sergeant and took five Prisoners, who with four others Sent the Nabob desires may be sent to Chandergerd

Agreed that Captain Pigot be ordered to request Abdul Bob Cawn to send them thither by the first safe Opportunity.

Lawrence Cherry the Renter of Tripatore being come in to settle his Accounts with Thompson. Ordered that a Demand be made on him for the whole Amount of the last and the present Years Rents and that he be presst to pay the same notwithstanding any Losses he may make of Loses or otherwise and as appears he has received much more than he acknowledges

Mr Peter Clarke desiring to enter as a Volunteer in the Service, Agreed that he be admitted and proceed to Cuddalore by the first Conveyance.

Thos Pearson
Councellors
Henry Bowcher
Robt Knox
John Smith
Jno Brandon

Fort. St George December 1753

At a Consultation Present

Thomas Saunders Esq Gov. Presid.
Charles Boddam Henry Bowrey
Alexander Hynch John Smith

Charles Pocock absent indisposed

Tuesday the 8th

Two General Letters and one to the Gov. from Major Lawrence viz as follows

Camp Arcot 1st Nov. 1753

I received your Honours of the 31st of Oct. My Ill and the Consequences of it prevented my making my Report before

The Muster Rolls are such as the Necessary make out (I suppose by your Orders) and are accordingly sent. I am very glad your Honr prevails on the Polk to come out as he can be of great Service. He knows a Supply of Cash from the Fort George and have reason Mr Pocke what more will be necessary.

Ensign Nash will certainly be of great use and shall be employed as Occasion requires Capt. Sanderson and Grant arrived here yesterday

The Charter for Courts Martial is very different. The Difference between it and the one given Mr Stevens Time is proper. I know very well Gent. the Consequence of making a bad Use of every Power & Privilege and how jealous the Parliament is of the Priviledges it is obliged to grant the Crown with in order to support our Army; but am sorry you are obliged to recommend Mercy to me in two Letters with those Paragraphs mention'd. I was capable of obeying my Orders in that Manner a

Fort St George December 1763

rest satisfyed that nothing but the Good of the Service
ever make me put my Power in force, nor with-
ill tim'd Severity: not punish when it is necessary.
Leave to add I believe I have been long enough in the
Service to be a Judge of both. I have forgotten the
Deserters mention'd to you.

I am oblig'd to you for the List of Officers both for
Captains Grant and Grenville younger than the Captains
come out this Season. Indeed I cannot but look on it
as an Injustice done them Gentlemen, and I think we
should avoid disgusting Officers who have serv'd us for
some time well and faithfully. They were appointed in
the Month of December last. Sure when approved of they
should have received Commissions at that time, or they
were not worthy of being recommended for that Rank. I be
your selves Gentlemen sent me the List where Mess.rs Grant
& Grenville were nam'd Captains in consequence of which
they were put in Orders and expected Commissions.

As regards you I have appointed Mr Wood, as
to Mr Ogilvy I can have no Objections since you approve
of him. On the Spot I name Officers for I must have
them, therefore leave it to your Option to appoint them
the Vacancy of the Troop. I have desir'd you will settle
as to the Bengal Promotions I wrote to the Governour
of that Settlement recommending, and them waiting for
his Approbation.

I have receivd no Reinforcement since our last
Affair of the 21st that has weaken'd us besides some men
demanding their Discharges as their time was out
which I could not refuse and the Bombay Detachment
that I have before told you I must send home.

I have receivd one hundred Stand of

Arms

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Fort. St George December 1753

At a Consultation Present

Thomas Saunders Esq Gov. Pres.t

Charles Boddam Henry Lowndes

Alexander Hynch John Smith

Tuesday the 4th

Charles Pybus absent indisposed

The General Letters and are to the Sec.

and Com.r Major Lawrence dated as follows

Fort St David (No 18)

I receive your favours of the 3rd & 5th Inst.

By Ld and the Consequences of it prevented my writing

before

The Major Cattle are sent as the Com.

missary writes me I suppose by your Orders and are to

getherly sent. I am very glad your Agent prevails on the

Polk to come out as he can be of great Service. He knows

a Supply of Casts from the Prince George are now before

Mr Barker what more will be necessary.

Lieut.t Nairk will certainly be of great

Use and shall be employed as Occasion requires Capt.n

Sanderson and Grant never have yet any

The Charter for Courts Martial is very

sufficient The Difference between it and the one given

on Mr Morgans Case is proper I know very well Gent.n

the Consequence of making a bad Use of any Power granted

to me and how jealous the Parliament is of the Privileges

& is obliged to insist the Crown make no other to support

an Army; but am sorry you are obliged to recommend

Mercy to me in two Letters and those Criminals mention

a Power capable of abusing my Power in the severest

Fort St George December 1763

rest satisfyed that nothing but the Good of the Service will ever make me put my Power on force, nor will I by an ill timd Lenity not punish when it is necessary. I beg Leave to add I believe I have been long enought in the Service to be a Judge of both. I have forgotten the Deserters mentiond to you.

I am obligd to you for the List of Officers both Captains Grant and Grenville younger than the Captains as an Injustice done them, Gentlemen, and I think we should avoid disgusting Officers who have serv'd us for some time well and faithfully. They were appointed in the Month of December last. Were when appointed if they should have received Commissions at that time, or they were not worthy of being recommended for that Rank I beg yourselves Gentlemen sent me the List where Mess.rs Grant & Grenville were nam'd Captains in consequence of which they were put in Orders and expected Commissions.

I represented you I have appointed Mr Hood, as to Mr Ogilvy I can have no Objections since you approve of him. On the Spot I named Officers for I must have them here leave it to your Option to approve of them. The Vacancy of the Troop. I have desired you will settle As to the Bengal Promotions I wrote to the Governour of that Settlement acommending, and them waiting for his Approbation.

I have receivd no Reinforcement since our last Affair of the 21st that has weakend us besides some men demanding their Discharges as their time was out, which I could not refuse and the Bombay Detachment that I have before told you I must send home.

I have receivd one hundred Head of

Oxen

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Fort St George December 1753

Arms, seventy of which are sent to Tuticorapoly & Forty kept here; as also six Tuns, six Cases of Pistols and four Spying Glasses.

The Death of poor Capt Ridge prevents his being able to make good his Assertion against Mr Dawson to whom I had transmitted the Copy of his Letter to you wrote desiring him to answer it, but if you choose to hear that Affair examined into the Officers on the Spot perhaps can enforce it. Pay of Captain Ridge's Officer to be enquired about.

I have received your Order about Courts Martial and the Commission for Mr Dawson to act as Judge Advocate I acquainted you before he had my Leave to go to Fort St David for the Recovery of his Health. On his Return he shall be appointed to act in Consequence.

I received a Letter some time ago from the French Officers Prisoners at Tuticorapoly on which four of them offered to lay down their Commissions and return to Europe never more to serve in India. I communicated this Proposal to Mr Saboly who wrote them word that if Mr Dupleix would release the Killedar of Chittaldroog and his Children, he would give them Leave to go to Pondicherry as Prisoners on their Parole and Hat there if they chose to lay down, and return to Europe he had no Objections to it.

Indeed in my Order to Captain Kilpatrick for the Command of Tuticorapoly till your Pleasure is known I find myself bitter & white Man Smith keep the Gold but Accidents may happen and I still fear this fall returning. I beg you will think of somebody in time to take the Command in case I should be obliged to go away.

Captain Caddy I am Gentlemen Your most Obedient

Fort St George December

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I have received your Letter of the 6th Instant
the Reasons that I gave why I could not negotiate were
enough to convince you that I would willingly have made Peace
if I did I thought myself equal to the Task; Past Misfortune
Operations required my Attention and I was afraid to encumber
myself in more Business than I was capable of Managing
then is no Trouble I should think too much to bring about
a Peace. As to the Queries you propose I beg to refer
you to my Letters, are they not all such as I have before
pointed out to you and given you my Sentiments on
But you do not think proper to grant him one for fear you
say of alarming our Allies, it may easily I think be prevented
ed by acting openly, and letting them know he desires one
and you intend to give it. I pray let me beg a Question
Will there not be an equal Jealousy on their Side, they
are apt enough to be inclin'd to it already. One Conference
will I think be more effectual than a Months Intercourse
of Letters As to Mr Dupleix's Insincerity we can be on
our Guard against it and only accept of those Proposals
we think agreable and conducive to the Interest of our
Honble Masters

Sir Dalloway you say maintains their Troops on
if the Seat of War was removed that Charge would be added
to them and increase their Expence. The means to have
removed the Seat of War was to have supplied Trichinopoly
with Provisions sufficient to have secured it. By that means
I should have been able to have marched where you thought
proper and obliged the Enemy to follow us for to prevent our
Designs How that has been prevented you very well know
When Provisions were to be got we had but Money sufficient

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Fort. St George December 1753

to pay the Troops when the Money came the Provisions were gone. The King of Tanjore's Minister told Agnew he would Contrive about it & reckoned that we should not have left Tanjore though had not had the Money there it was some Opportunities offered that all his Contrivances could not have prevented his supplying that Place

But Sir you know the Situation of the Company's Affairs better than I do, you know what they can bear, and you yourself can better consider the Assistance you make me than I can who can only pretend to judge of things in general Particulars I am kept from. One thing I will tell you of the Last Proposal is Objected to. I thank the Company my Friend Perhaps you may say if there is not a Peace it is also a good Country where to get one. Good Mr Saunders Companies act quietly, do not invade & waste your Lands nor entertain that Notion that a Number of Garrisons make you the stronger Men, I think are the only Methods of any proposal to enable you to make a good Peace & if Accidents oblige to maintain the War, and is sincerely the Owner

Sir

Your most Obedient humble Servant

J Lawrence

Cawnpore Nabs Capital of Elgare for the Government of the Country I think a very good one I shall wait his Arrival to hear more of it

Coylladdy 10th Novem 1753

The Honble Thomas Saunders Esq

(N 15) Honble Sir & Sirs

As there is a Company vacant by the Death of Captain Ridge I beg leave to recommend Captain Lind that Commands a Sepoy Battalion of Gentlemen

Fort St George December 17[illegible]

has been four years out on the Gold except this last
Monsoon obliged to go to Fort St David for his health
Services, Behaviour & Capacity deservedly entitle him to
Promotion and I hope you will think him worthy of it
Mr Thomas Rumbold is the eldest Lieuge I have left
you in a Letter before what I thought of him as an
Officer, and that I had apprehended him to act as Chief
or Master till your Pleasure was known, Mr Hall not
for the Lieutenancy

I must own I was a good deal surprized
yesterday to receive three Letters, one for the Nabob the
Brother and the King of Tanjore, all sealed and no copy
of the Contents, though I declared negotiating was not new
much for me with my other Business, yet I think I
ought to be made acquainted with our publick Transactions
at least not to clash with your Intentions, for as I am
the Spot I am liable to be consulted by all the People
who will think at last end if I am ignorant of what
Terms or Proposals are made by you

The Nabob showed me his Letter, he is prepared
or ill to send his Proposals, though by the Letter from
Mr Saunders to me, dated the day before he and others
lodging the receipt of mine (on which he sent
his Proposals) the Letter had been received on which he sent
me the last Proposal should only be complied with as a
the last Extremity. If received it would have been proper
to have taken Notice of it to the Nabob who perhaps
may have imagined I had neglected sending it
to the Time drawn near to open the Com
pagn, I beg your answer if I am to receive any Benefit
from that I may be able to form my Plan accordingly
I have let you know how I am reckoned by the last

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and now asking Your Excellency that as next probable
we Hard times & Inclemently may drive us further Eastward
must it would be necessary to be as strong as we could to be
able to make some head against our Enemy whenever
he we.

I cannot find my health to take that field for
I recover but slowly from the last Attack one day with
good may weak and out of Order. They are still thank
of sometimes ready to take the Command if I am obliged to
leave the Army. I send my Aid Capitaine Gentleman
to Inform you but only to caution you to prevent what
may very likely happen I am

Gentlemen Your most Obedient
Most humble Servant
To Lawrence

Fort Geo
the Hon'ble Thomas Saunders Esq
Lieut Gov & Commd.

The Contents of Your Board we regard
to the Major Letter are that for news determined to comply
of every thing, several circumstances of this kind are otherwise
in the Letters even read. The first is an Invitation to Canada
Natural who at the Recommendation of Canada and Louisbourg
continued as a Reflection Hawke it cannot be supposed but
that the Major is too well versed in the Laws and Customs of
his Country not to know that such a Change is always given
in Cases when the Life of a Subject is to be brought in Question
but as the present Case I cannot more especially necessary
as it is expressly in the two Royal Charters and the Power given
by that Charter is vested with the greatest Confidence. Other
Cases may be found in the following Pleas. You mention
Mr Dupleix wants a Conference but you do not seek proper
to grant him one Sir. Upon hearing this to get an Interview
with Mr Dupleix a Conference and speedily, must your Letter
to not desire to make your Terms are understood that Nothing
that is Honourable I have ever make you the strongest Co

Fort St George December 1760

How first the Major's Observation is in regard to the Conference will best appear by a Quotation from the President's Letter to him dated 5th Nov. Viz. Mr Duplex tells us he is ready to treat and desires a Conference, not ask his Opinion first on writing, and if they can be reconciled with honor, that the Nabob Mahomed Ally Cawn enjoy the Nabobship of the Carnatick and the King of Tanjore enjoy his Country without Molestation! we would agree to a Conference, till then declined it, as we suspect it might be deemed by our Allies, I doubt his Sentiments being Sincere. That this Measure was right appears by Mr Duplex's last Letter on which Observations are made in last Consultation, it is difficult to judge what the Remainder of the Quotation from the Major's Letter refers to for on reviewing the Correspondence with our Allies it will appear our Conduct to them is open and undisguised, no means more left untryed to bring the King of Tanjour into our Interest nor has any thing in our Power been omitted that could keep him so. It has been a constant Maxim to keep our Forces together nor are they more divided (as is intended) more than absolutely Necessity requires, Detachments have indeed been occasionally sent out from this Garrison to protect the Great Country from the Incursions of the Enemy or to favour the Nabob in collecting the Revenues which has been attended with Success but they have always had Orders to advance no further than would admit of a Speedy Return on any Emergency. The only Places where we now have Garrisons are Arcot Chingleput and Trichinopoly to few inconsiderable Detachments indeed are at Tonjore Covrepauk, and Musleipauk but they are part of the Garrison of Arcot and Capt. Pigou has been ordered to withdraw them upon the least Apprehensions of any Design against Arcot and so far are we from encouraging a Number of Garrisons that our Aversion to it is remarkable (amongst many

* Vide Consult 26th June

A5°

Fort St George December 1753

other Instances for the Promotion of Lawful Barter which had it been prudent to spare the Force would have been very useful; and the refusing Abdul Wah Cawn a Garrison for Wandiwash on the Kellidars appearing to Colonel on their Conduct

See Consult 4th June

On the Major still urging apprehensions that his Health will not permit him to take the field and again recommends to the Board to appoint somebody to take the Command should he be obliged to quit it Agreed that the Major be acquainted that though we are well satisfyed with the Behaviour of the Officers yet we look on the Command of the Force as a Matter of such Consequence that we should be sorry to see Circumstances such as to render it necessary for an Officer of Major Lawrence's Character to quit it and that we should be glad to send for Colonel Coote but as he has a Superiour Rank to the Major in the Marratta Service we should be glad he would inform us if any Difficulties should arise how they are to act so as not to clash with each other

Ordered that Copies of all Letters to the Nabob & Raja of Tanjore be for future sent to the Major

General Letter from Thomas Saunders Esq. to Coote

as follows

To the Honble Thomas Saunders Esq.
President and Governor &c Council
of Fort St George

Camp 19th November 1753

Honble Sirs & Sirs

I herewith send you a Duplicate of what I wrote you under date the 12th Instant the Raja of Tanjore has expressed to forward any Letters to the Dutaway for Trichinopoly that you may choose in the Copy of his Letter annexed I have therefore made a further Remonstrance to the Nabob of the absolute Necessity there is of sending them by the next Dispatch which I am sorry he has undertaken to do

Fort St George December 1753

are both inserted for your Perusal, I shall acquaint you with the Success of them by the earliest Opportunity and remain in due form

Honble Sirs &c &c

Your most Obedient
humble Servant
Thomas Cooke

L.S

Since writing the above the Nabob has again excused himself from sending any Person of his own to the Dalaway, the Vaqeel has therefore sent the Letter by a Harcara giving him a Promise of 20 Rupees if he brings an Answer J C

From the King of Tanjour to Thomas Cooke Esqr received 17th Novr 1753

I have received your Letter and observe the Contents, How was pleased to mention it is best to make a Peace with Nanderauze by my means by which the Terms might be better than what you propos'd when you was here, and that you have a Letter to be sent to him; Some time ago I wrote to Nanderauze about making Peace and received some Answers from him concerning it, but in the meane time the Muxer and the Nabob coming to me I acquainted them with my Intent and Officers to depend Trichenopoly, thereupon Nanderauze sent my Vakeel away that were in his Camp and from which time all Correspondence has ceas'd between us Nanderauze being very angry with me because I sent Provisions and Forces to Trichenopoly just at the time he was going to take that Fort which prevented him from taking it Morarow has Lately sent me Letters about making Peace but that Affair did not appear well to me; Therefore regarding it which the Nabob and I acquainted you with, you must therefore send a Letter yourself to Nanderauze and by his Answer whether he designs to make Peace or continue at War, and in case he should be inclined to make Peace please to determine it for a certain Sum of Money and to mortgage certain Countries to him as a Security for

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et and thereupon we shall know his Opinion, you said in your Letter that the Nabob told you my Opinion was to make a Peace for certain Sums of Money for which he might give Generally and Modern for Security and the Nabob consents to it. I shall be very glad to hear that both Parties agree to this and that the Nabob be happy in his Port and Country, always wishing for a Continuance with the Success and Prosperity to the Nabob therefore think it will be good for my Country to Peace be made on that Manner, I have sent a Copy of the Governor's to which you sent me, he has wrote very properly, it must be good Luck to Sandarauze if he accepts of Peace, I agree to any Proposals that the Nabob, Governor, Major and you may make which I have spoke to you when you was with me. What can I say more?

The Purport of the Letters referr'd to Mr Cooke's from Lieut and the Nabob to the Gateway are only to acquaint him that Mr Cooke is empower'd to act as a Mediator, that Peace would be a general Benefit to all Parties, that a fair Opportunity now offers of accomplishing it, that he will use his best Endeavours to effect it and desires to know whether it will be agreeable

The President lays before the Board a Letter of Compliments to him from Mr Dupleix (N°17) in answer for his detaining Capt Campbell at Pondicherry to be present at the Marriage of Mr Dalrymple whom Life Capt Campbell sailed at the Request of Dupleix and answer referr'd (N°18) the President takes occasion to say he is pleased that an English Officer could meet his Desires in this Affair, but hopes Occasion of the Sort will be prevented in future by a speedy Re-establishment of Peace by which Ends both Parties should mutually cover

Fort St George December 1753

fall within the Scope & Power of Subjects

Mr George Dawson lately arrived from Bengal
Colah being now called before the Board and Questioned
in regard to the Major's Commission of the Behaviour of
to Captains Ridge and Pascal, solemnly declares that
he knows of no other Reason Captain Ridge has to be
dissatisfy'd but that having only one single Room he
refuses it to resign it to him while he Maid at Dore
Colah at which Captain Ridge was much offended. Dore
in regard to Captain Pascal his Disgust arose from a Notion
in that he had not his proper Command upon no other Grounds
than that a Subidar having complained to Mr Dawson he
had not his Pay regularly he went with him to Captain
Pascal who instead of redressing abus'd the Subidar and
turn'd him down Stairs, he likewise complained that his Pa-
vilodge was infring'd because Mr Dawson intended to Post
a Guard for Military Stores having found this Method neces
sary as they were sent very irregularly before

Agreed that the Reverend Mr Palk and
Mr Henry Lambert be appointed Commissioners to treat
with Mr Duplaix Commissaries in case he should offer
such Terms as will admit of Treaty

Agreed that a small Present be sent to
the King of Mysore by Venkatrow

Hugh Saunders.
Coote Boddam
Henry Lowry
E Wood
Robert Lindsay

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Recd the two following Letters from Major Lawrence and one from Thomas Cooke Esq^r &c^a

Honble Sir & Sirs [N°16]

I have received your Honours of the 15th August and have answerd yours of the 5th Inst

I am convinced that we all wish heartily for a Peace; I am sure nobody has more Reason than I have. You know my sentiments fully on it, you know what Proposals have been made, if now only we to pitch upon those Terms we can make the Enemy agree to, which I make no doubt will be such as the Circumstances will best favour the Honour and Interest of our Masters. The Nabob must acquiesce to any thing you will please to propose, how can he pretend to make Objections. I hope your Endeavours may meet with Success and the Honble Company reap the good Effects of it. There is still a Mistake about the Date of one of my Letters, the Nabobs Proposals were sent enclosed in mine of the 21st the Receipt of which is acknowledged by Mr Saunders in a Letter to me of the 5th November and in the one which the Nabob received the day after dated the 6th November there is no mention made of having received his Proposals but perhaps have to send Them.

I am sorry if there has been any Pique in Capt Crompton's Complaint but as the Thing was reported to me, in Justice to myself and the Gentlemen I thought the honour to Command I could do no less than enquire into it. We must have imparted to the Affair as the Person is a Stranger to every one of us in Camp

Mr Maunsell informs me there are

Fort St George December 1753

we are able we throw in more.

We receiv'd another Supply of Money yesterday of 8500 Pagodas: do not apprehend there is any Danger while we stay here of the Money coming by Hircarr, I have as great a Regard coming from Tanjour as they may have and if Occasion shews the Expence of a Guard to the Sheriff. The Bill on the Dalaway I have not yet sent as I very much doubt it's being accepted.

While I can stay on the Coast I will not the Air has broke my Constitution greatly, however I will endeavour to stay till every thing is ready to take the field and in good Order, then if my Disorder increases I must leave the Army to the next Officer under me in Command and go to some of our Settlements.

I am Gentlemen
Your most Obedient
and most humble Servant
S. Lawrence

Cuddalore
26th Novem. 1753.

The Honble Thomas Saunders Esqr
Gov. President & Council of Fort St George

Honble Sir & Sirs

This Morning a Hircarr came in from Pitchenopoly with the following Letter from Capt. Kilpatrick

This morning between 3 & 4 Clock the Enemy attacked the Garrison by a General Assault, three hundred of the French got over the Outward Wall opposite Mannoer and possessed themselves of a Battery which goes by the Name of Dalton's but by the gallant Behaviour of our men and Officers who so warmly repulsed them they were obliged to abandon the Place with the Loss of seven or eight Officers made Prisoners and two hundred French Soldiers besides those killed and Wounded Cruelly those which is very considerable on their Side. We have lost

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[illegible] away. He has promis'd me particulars in a day or
two which I shall transmit to you Gentlemen with the
first — I heartily give you joy of this Good News and be
very thing necessary may be forwarded to me with all Ex
pedition to ruin the Enemy, I get the best Troops we can
from them — I am Gent.

Your most Obedient and most
humble Servant
P Lawrence

Coyladdy
21st Nov. 1753

A Letter from Capt. Kilpatrick confirms the
foregoing Account and adds "Thirty seven Men lay dead
"on the Causeway of which number one Officer, we kept
"a warm fire with our Guns and Muskets from the Fort
"on their Rear on their Retreat by which I think they must
"have lost a considerable Number of Men — By the Pantore Boy
"we have six or seven wounded and four killed

To the Honble Thomas Saunders Esq.
President and Governour &c. Council of
Fort St George

Camp 26th Novem. 1753

Honble Sir & Sirs

My last to you was dated the 10th
which the foregoing is Duplicate As the Messenger who went
the Letters to the Dalavoy is not yet returned so any Know
ledge as yet procured of him it is much to be feared he has
not met with a Friendly Reception — I have consulted the
Mayor on what further Step to take to obtain an Answer
who concurring in Opinion with me that it is the first
Thing absolutely necessary, he has spared a Peon who
has undertaken to go and speak to the Dalavoy himself to
enquire of him has received our Letters and to tell him
that we expect an immediate Answer This Peon set
out yesterday and I hope will return in a day or two at
I shall be able to inform you whether a Correspondence

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King of Tanjour's Answer enumerated in my last that he agreed giving us any Assistance in the Negotiation and only says that he shall agree to any Terms that the Nabob and Gen may approve, this too plainly shows that the Rajah is making up the Affair for Co Sake of Rupees more agreable to his Wishes and without any other foundation I am therefore much afraid those Terms on the Nabob though perhaps with some Difficulty over to succeed the Nabob will be brought to consent to any willingness may believe be brought to consent to any Method of Accommodation that may appear requisite but should Occasion lead us to have recourse to the last Extremity I am afraid the greatest Difficulty will be to reconcile the King of Tanjour to it as in the Conference I have with him he questiond me very particularly whether any such Thing was intended but I took care to disguise it to him. Lord Sir Major also of Opinion that it ought by all means to be avoided as such a Peace must on all probabilities prove hurtful and of no Duration

I am &c

Humble Ser[vt]

Your most Obedt

Sam[l] Stevart

Thom[s] Cooke

8 Received General Letter from Tho[s] Cooke Esq[r] as follows

To the Hon[ble] Thomas Saunders Esq[r]
President & Governor &c Council of
Fort St George

Camp 27th November 1753

Hon[ble] Sir &c

I addressed you yesterday and now forward Duplicate thereof, immediately after came in the Harcara from the Dalaway with Letters for his Second Master named Cumrah Ton, the Copies of which I now transmit to you, as also the Answer I have made to them. The Nabob

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Nabob is much offended at not receiving an answer from the
off. He ordered treating him with great Indifference
and looks as if he has in Intention to come to an Ren
nudation, or any other Steps but by giving him the Sa
of Embassy but this will be better explained in his
Answer. The Person he sent to me to talk on that Bus
ness was a low fellow and quite ignorant of all Affairs
I have therefore sent him back and desired him to send
another. He whom I expected was formerly in the Da
loby's Service and is known by him to be a capable
Person. For all further particulars you will be pleas
to refer to the Copy of my answer enclosed. I am to the
Honble the Select Governor & Council Honorable
Sir Thomas Cooke

Translate of a Letter from Lincoln Inn belonging to the Dataway
to Thomas Cooke Esq dated 26th November 1753

By a Letter sent to the King Sunder
Yand the Contents you said that you was sent as a
Mediator to be accommodated a Friendship between the
Nabob and him; the Kings Demand is to have the Fort
agreable to the Nabob's former Agreement which you are
acquainted with, you are a Gentleman to satisfy both
Parties. I hope you will perform accordingly. Sent word
by Veneyjee Pantalee on the Affair

Sencatram's Letter to the Nabob is to the
same Effect and Mr Cookes answer to the Dataway is to
be to the following Purport. That He returning an an
swer by his Secretary instead of writing it himself is a
great Slight to the Nabob and what is not customary
amongst Powers, that though the Nabob by his Success
has acquired a great Superiority, yet he is willing to make
Peace on reasonable Terms, that is to give him the Dataw

Fort St George December: 1753

with desiring that if he is inclin'd to Peace he will write of it himself to the Naval and send a proper Person to treat

Wm Fowntaine
Cuthbert Ellis
Henry Vansittart
P Wynch
John Smith
G Bourchier

To General Letters to Major Lawrence, Thomas Cooke Esq.
and Capt. Kilpatrick signd and sent as follows

To Stringer Lawrence Esq. Commander in chief
of all the Company's Forces in India

Sir

We wrote you the 2d Instant and
have since received your Letters of the 16th 21st 26th & 28th
Instant with one of the 19th to the President

The Commission for holding Courts
Martial is drawn out exactly agreeable to Charter, what
we wrote you on the head is usual on such Commissions
since given Mr Devisme & we hear dead we now therefore
forward a Commission appointing Mr Maunsel Judge Advo
cate and desire you will return that designd for Mr Devisme

Captain Campbell has a Commission as
Captain and Mr Lanoe that of Captain Lieutenant, his Rate
of

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of Health renders him incapable of Any Duty as Captain
Pascal is on that perfectly recovered, we propose sending
Mr Lewis to Devicotah and ordering M.Grant to Camp our
Lieut. your want of Officers, we have confirmed Captain
Kilpatrick in the Command at Tuticorin

We have already wrote you our Sentiments in
regard to the Command with our Apprehensions for the
Army should be left to the Conduct of a young Officer tho
an extremely well behaved with those Advantages you
the whole Affair of our Affairs depends on it we think we
cannot act with too much Circumspection Secrecy & Dispatch
Fatigue so long a Campaign must be to you we should glad
relieve you, but find only one Method of doing it, that is
for Colonel Scott who we believe will readily come, you are
acquainted with the Circumstances of the Commissioners
therefore we should be glad you would inform us in a
manner he Send you and to act as it may be agreeable
to you both

We are sensible that Difficulties must arise
in getting so large a Quantity of Provisions as are wanted
for Tuticorin, the Advantages attending the Surrendering the
Army are so great that the Basest People generally find
means to effect it at this Distance we judge the King of
Tanjore and Tondaman the only Resource and shall not
fail strongly to press them Enough we doubt whether the
former will think it his Interest to do it nor we should
then be at Liberty to remove the Seat of War where Oc
casion might require and for may apprehend this Country
will not then be so secure

The Packets Letter we enclose for you more
interpreted to you as we do not see any occasion of detaining it
Instructions but particularly the Terms entered on by the
Myson Tahal what has been done in regard to M.
Dupleix was also mentioned and the same last year we

Fort St George December 1783

a manner as possible; By the Copy of Mr Duplaix's Letter you will perceive he affects to give Law to all Parties and pretty says that to support the Nabob is only to fan the Fire which cannot be extinguished while he is on the Coromandel Coast Design was to know a Conference when we could perceive from his Proposals whether any Good could come of it or not purpose when he replies to our last sending Mr Josias Du Pre Constellart, you will perceive that though our Endeavours are to conclude a Peace, the Terms from Mr Duplaix are to drop the Nabob and get him Dalonay the 4th Article, how far their last Repeated ones change their Sentiments is a Question but we doubt not that our Negotiation with Vencatrow rest on this Point that Mr Dalonay would comply with every thing of the Fort was delivered up except the fifteen Lack but will not hearken to accommodating that Affair on Security of certain Countrys; we dont think the Nabob hearty in his Intention of Treaty and that the King of Tanjore is entirely averse to it except on his own Terms and here lies one of the Greatest Difficulties to surmount as that Dalonay is fixed in his Resolution we shall endeavour to negotiate with the King of Mysore himself and send Vencatrow with our Vakeel for that Purpose

We have remitted largely to Mr Dowd and Mr Starke has orders to supply you.

By the Returns of our Garrison you will see our Strength and how far we are able to send a Reinforcement.

Captain Campbell now passing into Pondichery Mr Duplaix requested reports Black Heffman to be there, that there may be about 100 Men of all Nations in Garrison, Several Boats Loads of Ammunition sent to Allumparra and a large Quantity by Land to Gingee

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Fort St George December 1753

It is expected Moralla Row will be detached from Hyder's Army. Abdul Rehman is preparing to come to Conjeveram and we shall join him with a Body from hence.

We expect with you on the Subversion of the Power of the Nabobs of Arcot is what attracts our Consideration, we have ordered Captain Calpatrick to advise with you concerning them and think if the Officers we give him record it might in some measure prevent this

Fort St George
6th December 1753

Sirs
We are
To
Your most Obedient humble
Thomas Saunders
Charles Boddam
Henry Powney
Alexander Wynch
John Smith
Charles Brooke

(Thomas Cooke Esqr)

Sir

We have received your Letters of the 19th 26th & 27th with Copies of those to and from the Nabob of Tanjore and the Dalawey, by this former it appears that the Proposals to accomodate Affairs for Us Luck are Security of Countries are rejected and that he is entirely averse to Treaty on any Terms we are likely to get, the Behaviour of the Latter has been very indecent, may be timely instead and gave us reason to believe the Influence his Affairs have over him is very considerable, we trust the late Repulse may have effect but doubt whether he will hearken to any other Measures than the Total Destruction we are therefore come to a Resolution to try our Efforts with the Mysore King himself, as we made very early Proposals to the King of Tanjore his answer will clearly announce us of his Sentiments we have always been of Opinion and agree with you that the difficult Point to accomodate Our Affairs to this Power and we wish the Letter

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has been told us; You are right in being assured and fore-
(ing of it nicely to form the same Circumspection as neces-
ry on regard to Successful Navk; Manager has always appear'd
ssman on the Nabobs Interest. The Nabob is not sincerely re-
ciled to the Treaty but his Efforts may be removed when
he must with the strongest Reason be assured that it will
not be on his Power to keep from them by force what they
demand by Treaty We are Sir Your affectionate Servants

Fort St George
9th December 1753

Jno Saunders
Chas Boddam
Henry Bowyer
Alexander Wynch
John Smith
Chas Bourchier

To Captain James Kilpatrick

Sir

Major Lawrence advises us of his
having confided on you the Command of Trichinopoly which
we confirm and direct that with the Nabobs Troops under your
Command on behalf of the Circar defend that Fort to the last Extremity
We suppose Captain Dalton has delivered you an Account
of Stores and Provisions in the Place and with a Return of the
Company's and Nabobs Troops, Copies of which you will
send us and be careful to transmit monthly your Accounts
as well the Issues and Receipts of Stores as Receipts and
Expence of Provisions that we may be the better able to form
a Judgment of your Situation. We congratulate you on your
late Success over the Enemy, the number of Prisoners must
now be very considerable especially when compared with the
Strength of the Garrison which particularly requires your
greatest Circumspection, Consult with the Nabob and Ma
jor Lawrence on the disposal of them in such manner as
may prevent any Designs prejudicial to your Safety. Write
us constantly the necessary that we may be able the better

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Fort St George
9th December 1753 — We are to give you the proper Assistance

Your affectionate Friends
Thomas Saunders
Charles Boddam
Henry Bonney
Alexander Wynch
John Smith
Charles Boureher

At a Consultation Present
Thomas Saunders Esq Govern.r &c Pres.t
Charles Boddam Henry Bonney
Alexander Wynch John Smith
Monday the 10th Dec.r Charles Boureher

General Letter from Admiral Cooke Esq

was as follows

To the Hon.ble Thomas Saunders Esq.r
President and Governour &c Council
of Fort St George

Camp at Coylandy 1st Decem.r 53

Honble Sir & Sirs

My last to you was under date the 27th Ultimo as p.r Duplicate annexed, you have since been informd of the great Success gaind over the Enemy in an Attempt they made upon the Port of Tellicherry on which I was in hopes the pleasure of congratulating you This Action seems to have lowerd the Rajaways Views not a little, one Hircarrah returnd from them yesterday with a Message purporting that Hyder would withdraw his Force and leave Cattapoot the Nabob would never be prevaild on to part with Tellicherry, he would on the contrary with a Sum of money he owes the Nabob would consider what he has advanced as taken for the large Army that was drawn from his Country last year by Balaseram

Fort St George. December 1753

been through his Contrivance & will all has recommended to us to send him immediately the Nabob's Proposals with the Intimation that if we were not speedy in it he was resolved all would be settled in Madrass by your Hon.rs &c. In consequence of this Message the Nabob has sent word to make an Opening of his Proposal's to the Terms that you will see specified in the inclosed Letter which he sent him. They are but small in Comparison to what was first intended, being designed as a Signal of every Advantage can be reap'd from the late Success. I have the Major's Approbation of them and hope they will meet with your as the King of Tanjour's delay in not sending out his Troops, gives great Reason to fear he is trifling with us. The Major has recommended it to me as absolutely necessary I should wait on him to let him know ye the pleasure manner the Consequence of such Behaviour and how much it concerns his true Interest. I am therefore going to set out for that Place from whence I shall continue to inform you of all Occurrences and remain in due form

Honble Sir & Sirs Your most Obedient humble Servt
Thomas Cooke

Dated 1st December 1753

Thomas Cooke Esqr to the Dalaway

I sent you a Letter three days ago to which you have sent no Answer. I understand from Sydoo Mar Pondar whom I sent to talk with you upon Affairs that you are willing to make up all Differences with the Nabob on Condition that he pays you all the Money you have advanced on his Account; I am very glad that you have brought to all on it. If you could see in this mind there may be a Peace concluded very soon, and all Parties will enjoy great Happiness. I have discoursed with the Nabob who has empowered me to make the following Proposals viz.t

Firstly

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Fort St George December 1753

1st You are to renounce your Agreement with the Nabob and to retire immediately with all your forces into your Country

2 You are to engage Morarow to do the same

3d You are ever after to keep a strict Alliance with the Nabob and if at any time he has occasion for assistance you must afford him with your forces, he paying the Expence

4 The English, King of Seringe and Tondaman are to be included in this Alliance and to act as Guarantees for the performance of the Treaty which must be signed by the contracting Parties and which two of them shall at any time engage if he is to be done or Every Party but the rest

5 All the Parties shall jointly use their influence to procure a Peace with the French

6 Further one of the Parties contained in this Alliance be attacked the rest shall support him the party attacked defraying all Charges

7 If you agree to these Articles and will engage by writing under your Hand to perform all and every one of the Conditions herein specified the Nabob will oblige himself on his part to deliver you on the full sum of Thirty Lack of Rupees and for the true & punct Payment of which he will mortgage to you the Country of Tanjore by Instrument this and Sine to be returned and acknowledged by you to be in full Satisfaction of all your Demands on him from the Beginning of the World to the Day on which this Treaty shall be concluded if you do not consent to these Proposals you will meet with great Losses

Agreed that Venkatanna's Departure on the intended Negotiation at Tanjore be postponed until it appear what turn the present Overtures from the Durbar may take, that Mr Cook and Col Major be directed to pursue the Treaty but nevertheless to omit no Opportunity of disturbing the Dalawoy

Fort St George December 1753

The President lays before the Board the Country Correspondence &c.

Captain Dalton writes that he resigns the Command of Trichenopoly to Capt. Kilpatrick the 11th Instant & has had all his accounts examined & signed by the Nabob

Captain Pigou and Colonel Polier advise that the Killedar of Chettapat had declared for Nabob Mr Allen hoisted his Colours accordingly on the 10th Instant

Captain Lin at Changlepat declares he never did receive the double Batta as mentioned in Consultation the 19th Instant

The Nabob and Abdul Rahman desire Leave for the Family of the latter to reside at Madraspatan under the Company's Protection Agreed that it be granted.

Letter from the Nabob enclosing Copy of one from his Vakeel in Salabat Jung's Camp with Copy of a Pharmaund from the Mogul to Salabat Jung and advising that Salabat Jung had sent a Messenger to the Nabob and intended after the Monsoon to go to Syringapatam and then to the Carnatick.

The Board are of Opinion these Advices are not to be depended upon.

A Letter from Mons. Goupil at Pondicherry requesting that Mr Astruc a Prisoner at Trichanopoly may be permitted to come to Pondicherry on his Parole to settle some Affairs of a private Nature, promising that the Parole shall be religiously observed or in default he will surrender himself a voluntary Prisoner in Mr Astruc's Place.

Agreed that an answer be given as requested Mr Astruc is not ours but the Nabobs Prisoner to whom he must apply.

A Letter from the President to Murtaza Ally Cawn Bramdeer at Velore requesting him of the Nabobs Success advising him to accommodate his Differences with the Nabob and offering on that case to send him a Cowle

A/K

Fort St George December 1753

and defence that as a mark of his good Inclination to
please Lieut. Smith and a few other Englishmen that were
in the Fort the King of Tanjore hath promised to
grant of Gunpowder Saltpetre and other Stores he might
stand in need of which Application to the Council
that he be supplied from time to time with
sent of Mrs Lewis as far as the necessity
Present Answer to him in consideration of the Grant
Dismissed

The Number of French Prisoners now
saptey being now very considerable and
in Ten Officers by whom he is to be appre
be continually fearing that may endanger
Guard and of course it would be proper to
on their Parole were to accept of Return
Agreed that Major Lawrence

The Accou
Lee being frequently prop
Mess Charles Boddam, the true
Report to a Committee appointed
were with the Nabob or absent to settle
Government And the
Moneys received & paid
year being laid before the
agreed to the said Committee

Colonel Lawrence
Return

Fort St George December 1753

13 General Letters to Major Lawrence and Mr Cooke signed and sent as follow

To Stringer Lawrence Esq.r Commander in Chief of all the Company's Forces in India

Sir

By Mr Cooke's Letter of the 5th December we observe the Dalaway had sent to St George that he was ready to treat, it might raise some Jealousy that he does not write his Proposals and give Room to doubt his Sincerity, and think his Intention was only to amuse me imagine this would on the least divert you from pursuing such measures as may distress them. Mr Duplaix we are informed has sent about fifty men to Syrengam. Aboul Fet Cawn writes that the Killedar of Chettepeet has hoisted the Nabob's Colours and it is reported that Morarow's Nephew who was left as a hostage for him at Pondicherry has made his Escape and is gone to Syrengam

We are Sir;

Your most Obedient Servants
Thomas Saunders
Charles Boddam
Henry Powney
Alexander Wynch
John Smith
Charles Bourchier

Fort St George
13th December 1753.

To Thomas Cooke Esq.r

Sir

We have received your Letter of the 7th Instant with the Copy of yours and the Nabobs to the Dalaway and the Articles of Treaty proposed, the Dalaway's twice paying so little Regard to the Nabobs and your Letters and to answer them gives no promising hopes to the Messengers sent by the Semadar one would almost doubt the Truth of it or at least imagines he intended to amuse therefore we think no time is to be lost acquainted us as soon as possible with the Result of the Nabob's Proposals which he cannot

Fort St George December 1753

Fort St George
13th December 1753 — We am Sir — Your Affectionate Humble
Thomas Saunders
Charles Boddam
Henry Bowery
Alexander Wynch
John Smith
Charles Bourchier

17 Read a Letter from Mr Dupleix dated the 3d Instant
N° 19 in answer to the President of the 5th which requires
a speedy Resolution in regard to a Conference. The Answer
by the President Direction communicated the said Letter to
the several Gentlemen of Council and took their Opinions thereon
in consequence of which it was agreed that a Conference
be held at Sadras and that the Hon.ble Mr Robert Clive and
Mr Henry Vansittart Commissaries appointed for that pur-
pose on our part proceed thither so as to arrive on or before
the 29th Instant, not that it is imagined the Measure will
be productive of Peace since Mr Dupleix still persists in
not acknowledging Mahomed Ally but that he may have
no Reason to say he proposed a Conference which was reject-
ed Pursuant to the above Resolution a Letter from the Pres.t
to Mr Dupleix was this day sent as entered in the Secret
Correspondence N° 20

At a Consultation Present

Thomas Saunders Esq.r Gov.r Presid.t
Charles Bourchier — Henry Bowery
Alexander Wynch — John Smith
Charles Bourchier

Thursday
the 20th

The General Letter from Mayo
Lawrence read as follows

Fort St George December 1753

(N 17)

Honble Sir & Sirs

I have received yours of the 22 ac-
knowledging the different Receipts of mine of the 2 5th & 8th
11th November

Your Men that want their Discharges
have met with Encouragement according to their Merit
Particularly in promotions as what can hardly happen for
what Interest can move an Officer to prefer men that
can be of no Service to him. The Bombay Detachment
shall be sent back, there is one European belongs to it
and he also asks his Discharge; the mans Reasons are
very strong, his time is out and besides five hundred Pounds
left him which he runs a Chance of losing by staying here

I told you Gentlemen in some of my
foregoing Letters it was possible you might be mistaken
in your Intelligence. In the Attack of Tricheropoly they
had eight hundred men besides the Guards left in Seyrin-
gam and their sick in the Hospital. About half of the
men taken Prisoners were a part of the 200 sent us
from Golcondah as a Reinforcement since the Battle &
since the Accounts of those Parties I have received from
you we never heard one word of these People came from there
to take them Prisoners; It is plain then you see that the
French had here at least 1000 men, that Number ex-
ceeds ours. Besides their Sepoys that never mix in Bat-
tles with them as ours do and make a very large Body
by themselves.

Mr Cooke is gone to Tanjour to endeavour
to settle our Affairs on a better footing. The King is for
from acting as we could wish and I am afraid Success
Interest is too prevailing, there are none of his Courts
mind we yet thought so often promised and even that
few left us Camp with me had no money so that yesterday

Fort St George December 1753

when we marched they could not come to the Fort
last Letter which is but very cool he desires we not to send
so often about the Troops coming up, that they are right
enough by being at Tanjore, therefore I gave over to
Mr Cooke and spoke it standing to the Directors, But
was told with the Company's last Instructions that
Gentlemen will do all we can for the publick good
and coming up till the 3d of November through ordered the
12th of September I suppose you are not ignorant of the
Reasons I always strongly recommended the Use of Horses
somebody there. I hope we may not feel the Consequences
of it's being delayed so long.

If Mr Dupleix will think of a Peace
and offer Terms there is one thing which I would have
mind to you which is the Agreement about Pondicherry
Consider what a Number of Men must we have of the
than they of ours. The equal Exchange of Men for Men
is very right but then of the whole is granted then how
much we shall be in their power by such a Superiority
they please at any time to break a Peace when they may
imagine they have an Advantage. We know they are
not very scrupulous.

Pray let Mr Dupleix know and
for all that the Dutch will not give the Pagoda any more
Provisions and trouble upon their Score, complaint by them
They may easily be done from Tyrungore. If they knew
the Consequence of this and giving immediate Orders about
it for the Supplies are actually stopped. He has then
made to three times about the Articles and has never
sent an Answer.

I marched yesterday and am encamped
on Capt Gingins Old Ground. I was obliged to it to prevent
any more attempts on the fort as also to be at hand to
observe the Enemy's Motions.

Fort St George December 1753

the Officers with him, Harrison, Nelson and Dickenson deserve
Gentlemen your Thanks. Indeed I think the Courage and
Conduct of the Officers in general need not have made you
afraid there was nobody fit to command besides me, you
mention it too as if I had been capable of saying it, you
and observe with you there is nobody fit for the Command
there are your Words. My Paragraph about Capt Dalton
was far from meaning so I am sure from saying any such
thing, you must have misunderstood it, there are Officers
to command whose Capacity you nor I need never doubt,
Such Expressions, if the Force of them is not considered as
are made use of in Letters or common Conversation (and that
without any Grounds) if they come to be reported may
create ill Blood between me and my Officers, A thing
which we ought most carefully to avoid

As to Officers from Bengal if you please
to give Directions as you have before and as you may think
consistent with the Good of the Service.

The Dalloway has never so much as
sent an answer about the Bill drawn on him
Mr Maxwell will answer the Company
about the money, any method you please to put in Practice
that does not endanger Delay in the Payment of this I hope
are the best

Lieut Percival is gone sick to Fort
St David that Gentleman does not seem by his Dispo-
sition fit for a Soldier, he has never done any Duty
since he joined us, nor to all Appearance is he fond of
it. If you can provide for him in the Civil Way per-
haps he may be of use, As for our Profession he will
never do

I am Gentlemen Your most Obedient
Humble Servant
Stringer Lawrence

Camp
6th Dec 1753

To Henry Saunders Esq Gov and
President &c Council of Fort St George

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Fort St George December 1753

Honble Sir & Sirs (N°18)

I inclose a Return of the Europeans
mustered in Fort St George on account of the ab
State of Hostilities made out as I intended like a general
Muster, as soon as the Troops you shall have
sent and joined the two Companies of European Infantry
and Corporals in Camp, you will find the Numbers to be 353
this is the whole of our European force that can be mustered
the rest is making up by Topasses Lascars and the Train of
Artillery which cannot be included as they do not serve
in Battalion. I send you an Account on my part of the
Enemy's Force you may judge from what they had on
the Offer against Cuddalore & what reinforcements
Tullajee Bonsla will make them again supposing he
will be Encouraged as to Black People they are at present
at least four to one.

I do not mention these Gentlemen to
alarm your Apprehensions or as I thought were now of
Affairs that formerly but to shew you I am not elevated
by Success, that I know the real state that I am obliged
to engage against when I attack the Enemy & no Victory
only to be warranted but by the absolute Necessity that
obliges me to it and could do for I thought attended with
Success I do to reconcile to myself as a Soldier and
must left to the world that censures after without
Cause, when all the Intrenchments I am drove to appear
This Good Fortune may not continue and should it
happen otherwise the true reason may not be given
for it but imputed to my Rashness or Misconduct To
prevent this I beg your Orders for my Motions If you

Fort St George December 1763

particulars I may, but as to general Affairs, the Consequences attending the Loss of a Battle or the necessity of giving one you can very well judge of, as you perfectly know my Sentiments on by my Letters. Let me then have your Orders and Opinions; I will execute them to the best of my power. If I am unfortunate enough to miscarry Calumny will not have much hold, at least I shall not be blamd alone

I acquainted you Mr Cooke was at Tanjore I received a Letter last Night from Ramah Naick who by his is also arrivd there. I have answerd it and desird him jointly to consult with Mr Cooke

The Enemy only huffe with us as I am informd, The King of Mysore will not write, says he has given his Oath of it to the French, never to write without their Knowledge; and his verbal Proposals are such as he knows we cannot accept of. Monagee I am informd is set out with some troops to join us.

The Dallonay has sent word he will not pay the Bill, he says if we detain his Vakeel by force we must pay his Expences. I believe you can get the Money from nobody but the Man himself

I omitted to acquaint you on my last that Captain Saunderson was obligd to return on account of his Health. I have but two Captains of Infantry in the field with me. I beg some more may be sent

I am Gentlemen

Your most Obedient and most humble Servant

S. Lawrence

Camp
1st December 1753.

To the Honble Thomas Saunders Esqr
Gov & Pres.t & the Council of Fort St George.

The President lays before the Board a Letter from Mr Dupleix to Captain Schaub with Copies of Letters from the English Officers to him and from Captain Caillaud in the name of the English Officers to Mr Dupleix at Syringam wherein they say that the Nabob having detain'd

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Fort St George December 1753

Honble Sir & Sir (N°18)

I Inclose is a Return of the Servants
me and Lieutenant Hebbenspoty & Mr Maxwell on account of their ill
State of Health could not be Intended to be present
Muster, as soon as the recover you shall have me

I beg you will look over the Return of
and peruse the two Columns of European Corporals
and Corporals in Camp, you will find the Number to be 363
this is the whole of my European force that can Muster
the rest is made up by Topasses Peons and the Lascars of
Artillery which cannot be inducted as they do not serve
in Battalion. I send you an Account on my List of the
Enemy's Force, you may judge from what they lost in
the Affair against Cuddapoty & what reinforce that
little Establishment will make them again superiour to
me in European as to Black People they cannot present
at least four to one

I do not mention these Gentlemen to
alarm you nor Hebbenspoty or self, I thought more now of
Affairs than formerly but to shew you I am not elated
by Success, but I know the real odds that I am obliged
to engage against when I attack the Enemy & no Interest
only to be warranted but by the above Disparity that
Success was to attend would be for I thought attended no
Success to be reconcile to myself as a Soldier and
much less to the world that censures after without
Cause, but if the Intermediate Scene draws to appear
the good Fortune may not continue and should it
happen otherwise the true reason may not be given
for it but imputed to my Rashness or Misconduct. To
prevent this I beg your Orders for my Motions. If you

Fort St George December 1763

particulars I may, but as to general Affairs the Consequences attending the Loss of a Battle or the necessity of giving one you can very well judge of, as you perfectly know my Sentiments on by my Letters. Let me then have your Orders and Opinions; I will execute them to the best of my power. If I am unfortunate enough to miscarry Calumny will not have such hold, as I shall not be blam'd alone.

I acquainted you Mr Cooke was at Tanjore, I receiv'd a Letter last Night from Ramah Nauck who by the is also arrived there. I have answer'd it and desire them jointly to consult with Mr Cooke.

The Enemy only trifle with us as I am told. The King of Mysore will not write, says he has given his Oath of it to the French, never to write without their Knowledge; and his verbal Proposals are such as he knows we cannot accept of. Monagee I am inform'd is set out with some troops to join us.

The Dalloway has sent word he will not pay the Bill, he says if we detain his Vessel by force we must pay her Expences. I believe you can get the Money from nobody but the Man himself.

I omitted to acquaint you in my last that Captain Saunderson was oblig'd to return on account of his Health. I have but two Captains of Infantry on the field with me. I beg some more may be sent.

I am Gentlemen

Your most Obedient and most humble Servant

J. Lawrence

Camp
14 December 1763.
To the Honble Thomas Saunders Esqr
Gov & Pres. &c Council of Fort St George.

The President lays before the Board a Letter from Mr Dupleix & Captain Schaub with Copies of Letters from the English Officers to him and from Captain Caillaud on the name of the English Officers to Mr Dupleix at Syringam wherein they say that the Nabob having detained

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and to maintain the Honour & Power any longer, they (the Officers) had agreed to contribute towards supporting them for about ten days to prevent their starving and that if the Captain should abandon them on this Distress he can not be suspected if they should do so too, since they are Powerless to the Nabob and not to the English, desired it might be known that we Servants on Europe our Selves had Powers made upon the Treaty to Captain Scraud [illegible] with the Officers to desire him to lay before the President & says it is surprizing that Officers who ought to understand what is the Law of Nations and the Established Custom on Europe should write that a Sovereign on Europe was obliged to Protect his Prisoner to make upon his Enemy, that he is sorry to send such Letters to Europe and that if by this Subterfuge they endeavour to lessen the Ingratitude of the Conduct of Mahomed Ally Cawn they expose themselves more than they think for

Ordered that a Copy of Mr Dupl. Letter be sent to Major Lawrence

Since having a great Demand for Sice Arms Agreed that Major Lawrence be desired to put them on the Company's Account the best of such as may at any time be taken from that Enemy & to mark all the Sappy arms with the Compy's Chop to prevent their exchanging them

The Board having considered what Officers can be sent to Camp on the Sin of their returning from thence on of Course that it is not reasonable every one should take their Turn of Duty and therefore

Ordered that Capt George Gardner at Fort St David take the Field and that Capt Donald Campbell succeed him in the Command at Fort St David

That Capt Charles Campbell relieve Capt William Lin in the Command at Chingleput and that

Fort St George December 1753

That Capt Lieut. John Innis take the Command at Devi Cotah in the room of Capt. Edwd. Pascal and that he proceed to Camp.

And that Capt. Grenville, Lieut. Speers an Volunteer Clark be sent to Camp by the first Sea Conveyance that may offer from hence to St. David.

Draught of a General Letter to Mayor &c. read and approvd as follows

To Stringer Lawrence Esqr.
Commander in chief of all the Company's Forces in India

Sir

We have received your Letters of the 6th & 7th Instant

By Capt. Chauvet who has obtained Liberty to come here on Parole we are informd about 350 Men were sent from Pondicherry to Seringam after their first Defeat and 50 since their Attempt on Trichenopoly; few remain and some of the Officers have declined the Command alledging that to lead new raised Troops desperate by continual Defeats against an Army flushd with Victory is certain Loss of Reputation to their Commander.

We surmise by some and (when we consider that the Attack on Trichenopoly was a desperate Action, the wounded few, the killd fewer and those that surrenderd are numerous) We cannot but suspect Mr. Duplex's Scheme is to endeavour to compass that by Treachery which he could not gain by Force of Arms and hence our Apprehension from the number of Prisoners, greatly disproportionable to the Garrison. We should be glad of your Sentiments on regard to the Officers who we think should if possible be retaind as releasd on their Parole were to serve again in India. When the Safety of the Place and the very being of the Nabob Family is at Stake we must think to cannot be too careful to secure the Prisoners in a manner the most likely to prevent a melancholy an Accident. This may add to the Weight of their

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Their unhappy Situation but when Self preservation is put in the Ballance, the whole World though they may pity their Misfortune will rather [illegible] an act of Prudence in the Subah and acquit him of even the Shadow of Cruelty

By Copy of a Letter from Mr Dupleix you will perceive his Sentiments as to peace, as the Event of our Reply will shew you ours. Intentions, when he attended to expects to the Terms proposed for. Treaty from a Conference what can be expected, the Vast Consequence are laid before Ours and his Superiours he may mean to serve both himself and those his Colours of the War on us The plausible Offers which flow so ready from his Pen dictated by Fear by seem to favour their Opinion for when has he means or Authority to make good his Promises, his Sincerity Fleeting and as ours depending on the Chance of War, our pursuits If we examine these proposals closely what are they more than he promises the Subah shall have a Sugar and we be rewarded our Advance on Condition that the Subah release 1000 Prisoners and divest himself of his Allies by which means he will be able to pursue us Chances at Aurungabad and conquer the whole Country and then be at Liberty to break or keep his Promises when we are not be able to oblige him to the Performance of them, this affair is of a very serious Nature and we are of Opinion we cannot be too cautious for he must never be pressed then to apply Remedies afterwards What has been thought proper to appoint Commissaries, they will proceed to Madras as to be there the 30th Instant.

We are sorry to observe there is a Jealousy in the King of Tanjour, the most reasonable Conjecture is that it proceeds from the Appointments of our Measures in Treaty with the French and Mysore Dadonay, we know of no means to dispel it but by a fowning hour of our Invariable Attachment to him and that no Steps shall be taken previous to

Fort St George December 1753

Interest the punctuality that we have observ'd with the
Nabob should we think confirm his Confidence. Murzapha
Nack seems but too much of the French Party. We observe his
Endeavours to incalcate to the King of Tanjore a bad Opi
nion of Ramah Nack but as the Tanjore Vakeel here is a
Creature of his, 'tis the more necessary that a Person on
whom we can confide should be there, the President
has therefore recommended him to the Kings Favour

As Patamary is so inherent in these Affairs,
we wish this Conference may not, as well as make the Kings
of Tanjore uneasy, throw into Mr Duplex hands the Power
of treating for the Dalloway also. If a peace should take Place
between the Nabob and Mr Duplex the other may be easily
managed, if not we may possibly do it ourselves, would it
not be more advisable to treat with him separately, than as
before wrote you. Inclosed are Copies of Letters to the Nabob
and King of Tanjore, also of one from a Jemidar belonging
to Morarow, he is so dangerous a Person and the Nabob
we are so little able to satisfy any Engagement, which we
conclude would be lucrative to him, that we decline making
any Advances till we are appriz'd of the Nabobs Sentiments

Your movement towards Tschenapoly will we
hope prevent any further Attempts of the Enemy. We have al
ready congratulated Captain Kilpatrick on his Gallant Beha
viour, we shall write to Bengal in regard to Volunteers
and Bombay for Officers. We shall use our utmost Endeavours
to send you a small Reinforcement, 'tis with Concern we
observe the Superiority of the Enemy's Army but with great
Pleasure the Gallant Behaviour of the Nabob's and our
utmost Endeavours shall not be wanting to promote their
Success.

You desire our Orders and Opinion, here
are our Sentiments on the present Situation of Affairs and the

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first Hour that appears to us necessary to be done is to
know as large a Quantity of Provisions as possible can be
supply'd, the other Operations of the Army depending on (this
on the Motions of the Enemy cannot admit of positive Orders
ers from hence, they must depend on your Judgement as
we are perswaded you will act for the best.

It was by no means our Intention to cast any
Reflection on the Officers or create any Misunderstanding be-
tween you and them. We are well satisfy'd with their Conduct
and are sensible that Success often depends on a Confidence
in each other on regard to the Command we have already
wrote you.

We send you inclosed a Copy of a Letter from
Mr Dupleix to Capt Chaud on the Subject of a Letter ad-
dress'd to him by the whole Corps of English Officers and
another from Capt Cartland to Mr Maisonville in relation
to the Subsistence of the French Prisoners.

As the Demand for Rice here is great
of the best of those that may be taken from the Enemy could
be purchas'd for the Company's Account we think there
be an advantage to do so and if the Rice were all mark'd
with the Company's Chop it might prevent the Inhabitants from
exchanging Good for bad, which has sometimes been the
Case here.

Upon Captain Dalton's Resignation a
Vacancy will be made for a Lieut Captain, Lieut Thomas
Browne stands next on the List, we are averse to supersede
any one without just Reason, but desire your Opinion of
this Gentleman.

We think it is but right that Every
Officer should take their Turns on the Field and shall
therefore order Captains Gardener, Percal Lee and Lieut
Lieut Spears and Volunteer Clark to proceed forthwith
to Camp, Mr Howe first as he is relieved on their respective
Commands by Captain Donald Campbell at St David's

Fort St George December 1753

Captain Charles Campbell at Changleput, and Captain
Lieutenant John Innes at Devecotah

We are Sir Your most Obedient Servants
Thomas Saunders
Charles Boddam
Henry Powney
Alexander Wynch
John Smith
Charles Bourchier

Fort St George
20th December 1753.

Captain Kilpatrick at Trichinopoly wrote
that he had drawn on us for five hundred Pagodas in favour
of Buckunjee Cothedar and three hundred Pagodas in favour
of Ambadoss Ordered that they be accepted when presented
and paid when due

Pallamcota a Fort on the Shallavanoor
Country having been a considerable time besieg'd by a Body
of the French and Seapoys. Mr Hopkins at Devecotah
writes that he had detach'd a Party from thence under
the Command of Ensign Frazer to drive the Enemy away at
whose Approach they abandon'd their Enterprize though they
had made a large Breach in the Wall and might easily
have taken it

Agreed that the several Officers in
the Out Garrisons be directed not to make any Repairs whatso
ever without express Orders but that they represent what
is necessary to be done and that a proper Person be sent
to survey the same and deliver in an Estimate of the Charge
attending such Repairs

The President lays before the Board
the Country Correspondence amongst which are the following
viz.t

A Letter from Seapatty row one of
Morarow's Jemadars to Comrapah the Presidents late Dubash
making some Overtures for an Accommodation with the
Nabob

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Nabob and that no answer be returned untill his Sentiments be known, it is hours the Opinion of the Board that if Morarow could be prevaild on to return to his own Country it would be better than entering into any further Engagements with him as it is out of the Nabobs Power to comply with such as he would extraordy require

From Vizagam Rajee giving an account of the Victory over the Nabob of the Rajamundrum Country

Also Letters from the King of Tanjore Nabob Anawerdy Cawn Cuddapah Nabob &c which contain nothing material

Mons Lestabrieres who was Governor at Chittapet having wrote to the President that on the Killedars declaring for the Nabob they were relieved and were ready to assist him in defending the Fort, the Board dont wrote to them to do so and that all fitting Encouragement should be given them

Draught of a Letter from the Board to Salabat Jung and one to Syed Lascar Cawn his Son as read and approved, acquainting them of our late Successes & that we are ready to do every thing in Support of the Great Mamadaw Most Rights and Privileges of Trade which the Mogul and his Officers have granted us.

Wee Sincerely
Gentlemen
Your Loving
Friends
Servants
Tho. Saunders
Geo. Pigot
Wm. Monckton

Fort St George December 1753

22 Recevd the following Letter from Mr Cooke via

Tanjour 9th December 1753

To the Honble Thomas Saunders Esqr
President and Governour &c Council
of Fort St George

Honble Sir & Sirs

My last addreſs to you was from Camp under date the 1st Instant as pr Duplicate inclosed I do not yet know how Meer Proposals have been dige-sted by the Dalloway. but Report says that both he & Morarow are at their Wits End since the Army have movd towards them. Her late alow they received at Trichenopoly has weakend them so extremely that I am much of Opinion they would call out for a Peace Sooner than us if we were for a short time to shew ourselves less eager for it. The Overtures we have already made has doubtless possessd them with a Notion of bringing the Nabob to their own terms, on which they will likely continue till they see the Tanjour Troops joind and Advances made for another Brush; we now to have a greater Advantage over them than ever as the Odds of European Force, the chiefest Part that was ever regarded must I think be somewhat in our favour which I believe is far more than was a little time ago expected. The King here has at last determind on sending out his Troops and every thing is preparing for their speedy Procedure which he has promisd me shall be in four or five days at furthest. Thus I am endeavouring to hasten all in my power and as their joining of the Army may probably put the Major on some further Undertaking I am in that case inclind to think the Event of it will end in Terms infinitely more advantageous than can now be pretended to, however as my Return to Camp will be very shortly, A Conference with the Major will better deter mine these matters.

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I was yesterday favoured with your Letter
of the 27th Instant and observe your Directions for the mortgage
of the whole Country to the King of Tanjore if he will be hereto
to settle Matters with the Dalleway which also contains how
I shall have occasion to act after discovering the Nabob and
Maruna his Consent had but the foregoing Causes induce
me to think at present a dont Point not necessary till we
see the Success of what I am already upon endeavouring
the Event of a few days Which I have upon to the Hague &
shall conform to her Opinion I believe your Sentiments may
be my right in regard to the Kings Interest of making up
Affairs for only Lacks of Rupees It looks designed only to
divert the Time and keep off the last Retreat, this consent to
which you may depend on it, will never be procured This
Friendship at this Juncture ought certainly to be preserved
and is what I shall do all in my power to contribute to, how-
ever I cannot but remark from his dilatory Behaviour
that it seems to be continued on his Side only because he is
afraid to be otherwise, the Welfare of his own Dominions is
too much at Stake and it is to the Terror of this alone that
we are beholden for all his Assistance Monajee is at
present under the Kings Displeasure having refused your
out to command the Troops without being restored to his
former Privileges I was obliged to interceed but in a handle
manner for him for inserting too strongly might have prove
of ill Consequence but without Effect Moreover it seemed
so far as to get Gadoram appointed on his room vacated by
Venegopauk who was before entended the high Dustoo
at this Court I suppose you are not unacquainted with
therefore may be sensible of the Cause he is thought to be
a good Friend to the General Cause I should be ready to comply
with your Recommendation in taking notice of Monajee but the
present Situation he is in makes it necessary to be avoided

Fort St George December 1755

on all Occasions, it will be entirely out of my Power to
remove this Your Letters to the King and Nabob have
been deliverd. Ramah Nack arrivd without the Sum of
5 l.ps past, but a good day not having presented, has not yet
made his Appearance. I have sent repeatedly to him to
desire him to think of it.

I have duly observd your repeated Caution
to be moderate on my Expences; This you will not afford it
of my strict Obedience to and that you may be a timely
Judge of them propose transmitting my account to you reg-
larly every month.; Accordingly I now enclose that to 30th
November drawing if it does not appear to comport as much
be expected but will please to have regard to the Present
made and the Necessaries provided at my setting out
Store for the future will I hope be considerably reduced, of
the 61 Coolys I brought out with me I have discharg'd
half though at some Risque of not being able to get others
when Occasion requires in which case my necessaries must
be left on the Ground for any one to pack up that need with
them. I remain on due form

Honble Sir & Sirs Your most Obedient humble Ser
Thomas Cooke

Which having been communicated immediately to the Gent
of Council it was judgd proper in Consequence to write the
following Letters to Major Lawrence and Mr Cooke Viz

To Stringer Lawrence Esqr Commander in chief
of all the Companys Forces in India

Sir

We wrote you last the 20th Instant
since which we have received from Mr Cooke Advice that Mona
ger is degraded from his Command which has been confirmd by
Gadarow and that they were to march in a few days, but
takes notice of Sucrojee Nack's great Power at Court and
his

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Sir Being on the French Interest, that the King is very
desirous and that he Attachment to the Nabob we de-
pendant on our further Aid the Expence of the ensuing
Year make it necessary and that he Council to the last
Advice will never be prevaild to Act frequently concur in
with Proposals of accommodating Affairs with the Nabob
which have always ended in nothing, that last we were to hear
is a very reasonable one, we think he should without De-
lay declare whether he accepts it, if not he should be perfect
to give the Army without Delay that no favourable Opportu-
nity may be lost.

The President & Council mention near 100
Men sick and Wounded that are sent into Pondicherry, that
between two and three Hundred Men are sick at Chingeput
and the Enemy greatly confused. If you should have Grounds
to think this Intelligence authentick, you will best be able
to judge whether it would be adviseable while your Force is
make any Attempt on the Enemy. We are

Fort St George
23d December 1753

Your most Obedient humble
Thomas Saunders
Cha Boddam
Henry Fonnereau
Alexander Wynch
John Smith
Charles Bourchier

To Thomas Cooke Esq

Dft

We have received your Letter of the
Instant from Sevgeon, by the Advice at different times
you so plainly appears to us, that for from intending to, th
Nabob has absolutely determin'd quarrel or answer to
the Imperial mandate, it is said he has taken a Throne

Fort St George December 1753

Consents that French nor could we expect it [illegible] he declard he could not treat in Camp Wherefore gave a Day to Vencatrow here to do it. Our Instructions to you were chiefly to reconcile the Affair to the Nabob and the King of Tanjour; the former has given us full Power, the latter is averse to it & continues to amuse us. Our Diversion is to make the Proposal to the King of Tanjour, there was no Necessity to wait for discoursing with the Nabob when he here was acquainted with it, therefore on the Receipt of these inform yourself and advise us of the King's Resolution, if he accepts it, well, if not, press him to join the Nabob with his [illegible] which he cannot then have the least Pretence to delay. The Situation of the Nabob's Affairs made us call to a determinate Resolution to treat, his Distress and the vicinity of the Enemy render'd it difficult to get any Terms their Late ill Success will doubtless incline them to be more moderate; there are but two Alternatives; If the King of Tanjour will agree to and the Dalloway accept the Proposal beforementioned, if not the last Article, and this we are persuaded he will demand rebuild he has the least hope remain did he not If the Blow could be repeated it might reduce them to great Distress, but by the Major Letters we observe they are so superiour in the field. We have always found Success was fluctuating and in the present Situation think it not prudent to run the Hazard of Extremes but make use of the fortunate Occasion if possible to terminate the Affair

We are Sir

Your affectionate Servants

Thomas Saunders
Charles Boddam
Henry Pawney
Alexander Wynch
John Smith
Chas Bourchier

Fort St George
23 December 1753

Fort. St George December 1753

At a Consultation Present

Thomas Saunders Esq^r Govern^r & Pres^d^t
Charles Boddam Henry Penney
Alexander Wynch John Smith
Charles Beauchier

Monday
the 26th

Commissions for entering on the Corke and Commissions Paul & appointing the Revd Mr Robert Palk and Mr Henry Vansittart Commissioners to treat at Sadras with the French Deputies with Instructions to them as orders hereunder are now signed &c^a

Orders and Instructions Given by the Hon^ble Thomas Saunders Esq^r President and Governour of Fort St George &c^a &c^a and the Council thereof to the Reverend Mr Robert Palk and Mr Henry Vansittart Commissioners on behalf of the Hon^ble United East India Company for holding Conferences with the Deputies of the Marquis Dupleix Governour of Pondicherry and other Parties concern'd in the present War on the Carnatick

1st We the President and Council aforesaid having appointed You Mr Robert Palk and Mr Henry Vansittart to confer with the Deputies of Mr Dupleix Governour of Pondicherry of ways and means to terminate the present Troubles in the Carnatick, you are therefore to proceed to Sadras, the place appointed for that Purpose in time to arrive there on or before the 30th Instant and if the French Deputies should not be there you are immediately to dispatch a Messenger to Mr Dupleix with notice of your Arrival

2d You are to observe throughout the Conferences and on all Occasions that the English have not at any time during the Troubles and do not act as Principals but as allies to the Circar

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that Nabob Anwerdy Cawn Behauder be acknowledged a
of the Carnatick in as full and ample a manner as he
or any other Subahs have enjoyed the Province and that
King of Tanjour enjoy his Country without Molestation
consequence of which such Demands as Mr Dupleix ma
have on him will be considerd and if possible reconcil
adjusted

4 If these Proposals which have been repeated in our severa
Letters as the only Basis on which we are empowerd to
treat should be rejected the Treaty must drop but then
you may demand the Proposals they have to Make and
acquaint us with them

5 If they should be accepted you will then proceed to hear their
Demands in regard to the Nabob and their Resolutions in rega
to the King of Tanjour and communicate them to us as they
are Points that no determinate Resolution can be made on
till those Princes are acquainted with them

6 As Mr Dupleix is an Ally of the Dalonay he will undoubtedly
think himself in honour bound and would be glad to treat
for him We think there is no Occasion for introducing him
into the Conference till by weighing their answers there ap
pears a Probability of the prior Articles being concluded and
then it may be intimated that it be left to the Nabob to
treat with him separately, but if insisted on that their Accoun
between them be settled and for the payment of such Sum
as shall appear justly and equitably due, certain Districts ne
the Trichenopoly Country shall be mortgagd

7 That whatever Satisfaction shall be given to the other for
Expences or Damages sustaind shall be guarantied by the rest
and that as our View in treating for the Nabob are to restore
Peace to the Covenc that this may be more effectually secur
by treating of and coming to an amicable Agreement
as to our Trade on the whole Coast we are ready to do it.
and you may propose it

14 Fort St George January 17.

of what I have remark'd with them I can by no means say that I complain'd without Reason, If it appears that a Conti- Opposition has been hitherto made to me, it is all possible the Ser- vice of our Honble Masters could be forwarded which I acted at all when I saw no prospect of an End to this Opposition, nor is it not the Part of an honest Man to sacrifice my own Interest and Employments rather than continue it? I can assure you Gentlemen I am sincere when I tell you my Passions are neither so violent nor my Resentment so strong but I am yet able to forget every thing that is past and if a Friendship and Harmony subsist for the future as it ought, I shall thinke myself happy in having incurr'd the Command, as it may give me some Share in dis- pointing the Scheme of these Enemies to our Country who aim at the Destruction of our Trade and all that is dear to us.

21 I should be glad to make an End here, but an Expression in your Letter (which pardon me if I call impolite) telling me I made a dishonourable Request forces me to say a word or two more and accompany you to the End.

22 If you ever intend that I shall have it in my power to reward an Officer in the Field who appears to me to have extraordinary Merit (a thing never denied a Commander before now) are the Conditions of coming into the Service made more to Mr Pepington now than they were last August, his Behaviour at the Battle near Bancoor I thought merited something more than my first Appointment and I recommended him to the President who

15. Fort St George January 1753

who returnd me a List of Officers to be made Lieutenants and
placd him the sixth from Mr Cooper, this Town gave me some
Surprize but how great must it be to find now you have put
six more over him — I would ask whether this is meant to affect
or not? or has he committed any Crime to merit this Favour.

23 An Enquiry on the Transactions of this Campaign
will shew whether I deserve the cruel Hint you give of neglecting
to forward the Service. I arrivd at St Davids the 16th August
brought the Enemy to an Engagement & beat them the 20th after-
wards we marchd to Trivedy and waited the coming down of the
Morattas from whence it was unsafe to stir as we did not know
whether they were Friends or Foes. On the 19th September they
joind us; On the 24th they set out for Hondiwash and notwithstanding
the Badness of the Weather I reachd it the 30th. We finishd
our Business there by the 6th October, when the terrible Clouds
& Thunder made us think the Monsoon was setin. We sent
down Orders for returning to Trivedy and Captain Clive Letters
informing me he could not send the Heavy Cannon and we
give over all Thoughts of Chittepet if it was advisable (though
I really think it was not) so I made forced Marches with an
infinite deal of Fatigue got happily to Trivedy by the 10th Nove
the Campaign ended & whatever may be thought by those at a
Distance, have it ought to have ended and we gave ends to St
Davids But through a Pique to me and for no other Reason
that appears from all I have been considering, the Bravest
these brave Troops that have ever marchd to many Difficulties
and served our Masters with so much Alacrity have been exposd
to