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Diary and Proceedings

of the
Select Committee

at
Fort Saint George

Commencing 1st January 1775

Fort St George 3rd Janry 1775

Received this Day of Pallamar the following Letter from M^r

Mostyn

To the Honible Alexander Wynch Esq^r
President & Governor & Members of the Select Committee
at Fort Saint George

Honible Sir & Sirs

Having this Instant received a Letter from the Governor
of Bombay directing me immediately on the Receipt of it
to withdraw to the Presidency with the utmost Speed.
This is purpously to acquaint you thereof to prevent
your addressing any further Letters to me at this place
I enclose your Honor^y Duplicate of my last. I am with
respect...

Honible Sir & Sirs

Your most obed^t & true Servant
Thomas Mostyn

Loonah

5th December 1774

At a Committee Present

Tuesday

10 Janry

Alexander Wynch Esq^r Governor President
Joseph Smith, John Maxwell, John
Edward Stracey

The

2 Fort St George 10th Janry 1775

The President lays before the Committee a Letter this Morning received from Captain Cota Commanding at Battamuttah, advising that he had the Evening before received a Letter from one of the Gentlemen at Amoy in which was the following Paragraph "A Battamoot Boat is just arrived from the Brisdery informing us that our Troops have taken the Field against the Mahrattas, & that we are now before Tanjore. The Mahrattas have a large Fleet now looking out for our China Ships. But I make no Doubt we shall soon hear of their being dispersed as there is a strong one of ours getting out at present to go against them."

In consequence of the foregoing Intelligence a Draft of a Letter to the Governor General of Fort St. William as inserted in the subsequent Diary is now prepared, ordered to be wrote fair, & immediately dispatched.

Wm. Smith
Joseph Smith
J. H. H.

3^d Fort St George 10th Janry 1775

12 M. Agreeable to the resolution of this Day the following Letter to the
Governor General & Council at Fort William is now dispatched
To the Honble Warren Hastings Esq.
Governor General & Council
at Fort William

Honble Sir & Sirs

Letter to Bengal ad-
vising of Mr. Mestyn's
recall & the Intention
to send him from Bombay
via Amoy & Swatow
- Hong Kong -

On the 3 Instant, We received a Letter
from Mr. Mestyn who by Appointment from the Court of
Direction, had resided for some time past at Bonahe,
advising that on the 5 December he had received Orders
from the Governor & Council of Bombay to withdraw
from thence & repair to the Presidency with the utmost
Speed. As he did not communicate to us the reason
of his sudden recall, & the Gentlemen at Bombay
gave us no Intimation on the Subject, we were at a
Loss to account for the same: This Morning the Pre-
sident received a Letter from Capt Cook Commanding
at Pallam that Dated the 3 Inst. advising that on
the preceding Evening he had received a Letter from
a Gentleman at Amoy. Dated 29 December in which was
the following Paragraphs: "At Battam a Boat is just
"arrived from the Presidency informing us that our Ships
"have taken the Field against the Malabar, & are
"now before Tanor. The Malabar have a large
"Fleet now looking out for our China Ships, But I make
"no Doubt we shall soon hear of their being dispersed, as
"there is a strong one of ours fitting out at Tellicherry
"to go against them."

At this We have not received any Advice on
this Subject from the Gentlemen at Bombay, neither
can We assign the reason of their engaging in Hostilities

against

Fort St George 10th Janry 1775

against the Mahrattas, yet as the Intelligence is true,
is of the utmost Importance to the Company's Affairs
We have thought it proper to give your Honor &
the most Early Intimation, as well for your Infor-
-mation, as that we may be agreed with your Sen-
-timents respecting the Conduct to be used by us
should the Gentlemen at Bombay find it expedi-
-ent to apply to us for assistance, or to coope-
-rate with them.

It is necessary for us to observe that
our Revenues & resources are very inadequate to our under-
-taking a War at any rate, & our Situation with the
Nabob on whom we must depend for assistance in
case of our being obliged to take up arms has been fully
explained to you in the Letter from the Board in
their Military Department of the 7 December.

The Nabob has acquainted us that by the latest
Intelligence he hears that Rogemant Row jeans
of the two Indostan Chiefs on Account of some Letters
he had intercepted had separated himself from them
& it was thought had arrived on the Banks of the River
Dah & was retreating towards the Mahrattah Province. We
have the honor to be

Fort St George

10th Janry 1775

Honble Sir & Sirs

Your most obedient Servants
Alex Wynch & Committee

Wednesday
11 January

At a Committee Present
Alexander Wynch Esq. Governor President
Joseph Smith, Jnr. Maxwell Stone
Edward Stracey

The

Fort St George 11th January 1775

The President acquaints the Committee that
after dispatching the Letter of Yesterday to the Governor
General & Council at Fort William, he learnt that private
Advice had been received from Tellicherry which
say "That our Troops had taken possession of Salsette
& Bassein. That it seems the Portuguese had deter-
mined to have possessed themselves of these places
if we had not done it before them. That they have
this year brought on three Frigates & three Merchants
with a large Quantity of Warlike Stores & are deter-
mined to repossess themselves of some of the Forts &
ries they formerly enjoyed, & to put Goa on a different
Footings".

Agreed that the foregoing Intelligence
be immediately communicated to the Governor
General & Council at Fort William.

Wm. Smith
Joseph Smith
& J. H. P.

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Fort St George 11th Janry 1775

12 M In consequence of the resolution of this Day the following Letter
to the Governor General and Council at Fort William is
now dispatched

To the Honble Warren Hastings Esq.
Governor General & Council
at Fort William

Letter to Fort William
with the Advice from
Tellingburg.

Honble Sir & Sirs

Since dispatching our Letter of Yester-
day, private Advice are arrived from Tellingburg which
say that our Troops had taken Possession of Salado &
Bajung; But no particulars regarding the Capture
are mentioned. The same Advice add. that it seems
the Portuguese had determined to have possessed themselves
of these places if we had not done it before them. That
they have this year brought on three Frigates and
three Merchantmen, a large Quantity of Warlike
Stores, & are determined to repossess themselves of some
of the Territories they formerly enjoyed & to put Goa on a
different Footing

We have the honor to be

Honble Sir & Sirs

Your most obedient and
most humble Servants

Alexander Wynch & Co^{rs}

Fort Saint George
11 January 1775

At a Committee Present

Alexander Wynch Esq. Governor President

Joseph Smith, John Maxwell Stone

Edward Stracy

The President lay before the Committee the following

Business

Saturday
14 January

1 Fort Saint George 11 Janry 1775

Extracts of a Letter from Mr Boddam Chief of Settlement
of Intelligence enclosed - An Account of the Land & Sea Force
at Goa together with Extracts of Intelligence received in
September last at Bassein.

Extract of a Letter from Ransom Fort Boddam Esq Chief of Settlement
Dated 31 December 1774 & received the 14 January 1775

Extract of Mr Boddam's Letter

I have this morning been favored with your Letter of the 22nd
November by our returned Purveyor & agreeable to what therein
noted now sit down with the greatest cheerfulness to comply
with your Desire as far as lays in my Power.

The Accounts you notice to have received relative
to the Force come out this Season & reported by the Portuguese
is well founded as you will observe by the enclosed Extracts
of some Advice sent me by my Correspondents which I
have long since forwarded to Mr Hamby they state expect
another 50 or 60 Gun Ship which sailed in Company
with a Merchantman who passed this place about 10 or
15 Days past, & had only 85 Men as Recruits on Board
for Goa. They have now two Frigates laying to the South-
ward of Cochim to join this expected Ship, & every way
safe to Goa. The Intentions of this Reinforcement was
to oppose themselves of the Congress made from the Portu-
guese Nations formerly by the Malabattas particularly
Salset & Bassein; But as our Troops are now acting
against these places, which without Doubt you have
some time been advised by the Select Committee at
Bombay was their Intention, I hope in a few Days to
advise you that every Success has attended the Expedition,
this by a Letter received yesterday from Mr Hamby & Drake
Cruiser Dated 23rd Inst. he acquaints me Lanna Fort still
held out tho they had destroyed all their Defences & were
preparing

8 Fort George 14th Janry 1775

preparing that Day to storm, which it was imagined would put the place into our Possession they had sustained the attack of our Batteries for 7 Days the Fort being high & Walls thick & well built by the Portuguese.

The Calcutta Thompson that arrived here the 10th Inst, has been detained untill the 20th when she sailed with a large Convoy for Bombay she will be joined by the Drake who follows her to tomorrow night she brought me the enclosed Extracts of Europe News received per Revenge just imported from Bombay of which I have the pleasure to enclose you Copy.

Our Linguist that arrived the 10th Inst, from Syringapatnam having been up thither with the Prince of Chennick, advises me that Hyder was making great preparations for proceeding down this Coast by the Way of the Ghatts inland of Callicutt supposed with an Intention to attack the Cochin King. & after that Conquest to proceed to that of Travancore that in consequence of the Intrigues of the Malabar Court he had lately received very pressing Letters from Rajobah inviting him to march his Forces to his Assistance, But that it was not known if he Hyder would be tempted to give up at present his Views to the southern parts of this Coast. His Army by the best Accounts I can get consists of about 9,000 disciplined Sepoys, 10 to 12 thousand Horse, 95 French Guns and commanded by Monsieur Rayon & other French officers, 60 Portuguese for his Artillery as Gunners, 5 English Sergeants for disciplining his Troops after our Mode, & about 12 to 14 thousand Peckadars
arrived

9. Fort St George 14th Janry 1775

armed with Match Lock Pieces & Spears but the latter are a mere rabble. He has recovered the best part of the Artillery that he lost to the Mahrattas at the Battle of Muddur in March 1772 in the Fort he has possessed himself of in the Serac Country. There is one Custom and English Artillery Officer lately sent up to him from Pondicherry who at present he much notices. Syringapatnam is but four Days for a Pattannor from this place the Way to which I have well laid down.

By a small Vessel just come in I learn that the Mahratta Fleet now cruising between Ghuriah & Rhuistena Ghuriah consists of 3 Ships & 3 Match Guns with 30 or 40 Gallies etc. It is at present uncertain if Durao the Governor of Ghuriah will join Rajowati's Party or not, if the contrary, our Fort will run some risk of suffering if the Men of War do not speedily appear in this Coast.

The Phoenix left us fully loaded for Great Britain if the Stafford is intended, if Circumstances will permit to be sent down thither from Bombay in about 10 or 12 Days as a Convoy for the Trade & to be returned up again.

Extracts

Enclaved Intelligence
of the State of the
Port of Goa.

The 21 September arrived at Goa. Don Joze Pedro de Carne-
ra as Governor & Captain General of India with two
Ships of War, one of 64 Guns, & the other a large long
Frigate both to remain in India. The Government
will undergo almost a total Change, as well in
Religion as in Civil Matters.
Four Brigadiers, & two Lieutenant Colonels with

Fort Saint George 14 Janry 1775

a suitable number of Officers are come out. The Infantry to be augmented & a Regiment of Artillery to be raised. Three of the largest Convents are taken for Barracks to accommodate them. The Artillery to have Serra D'Cabre the Inquisition totally abolished. All the poor unhappy Wretches set at Liberty & the House taken for the Vice Reis Palace. No Law is to be made for twenty years to come. All the riches of the Churches taken by the King, & only 1 Feast allowed to be kept throughout the whole year, the Expense of which is to be ascertained by the Vice Roi. The King has also taken to himself the Advantages arising by the Tobacco Farm & the Sale of the annual Consignment of Portugal Snuff sent out by the Queen. 11 Juries of Justice are come out to take Cognizance of all Matters that require redress. A Liberty of Conscience is permitted, & the Asiaticks of whatever Denomination are permitted to exercise their religion & build Churches. The Portuguese are going to put their Marine on a different footing to what it was. Six Frigates of 36 Guns each to be built at Damaoim with the utmost Expedition. All the Gallies at Goa are repairing & the two Men of War that arrived have brought no trade of any kind being full of Implements of every kind for the above Frigates with a Very large Quantity of Cannon, Shot Powder, & all kinds of Military Stores. They brought Seamen included one thousand Effective Men, & there is hourly expected another Ship of Carriage commanded by Gates & a Freight Ship. These are carrying also from 5 to 600 Military and Mariner. The Bishop of Allacanga or Delagoa Bay has the Rank of a Brigadier General. It is said they fully intend attacking the Matruas. I think they

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they must certainly have some Intentions of that Nature
by increasing their Military & Marine Force so considerable.
An Act of Grace has taken place upon the arrival
of the new Vice Roi, of all Delinquents pardon'd
& set at Liberty.

Account of the Portuguese Forces at Goa VIZ

Four Regiments of Infantry each consisting of seven	}	2240
Companies of 80 Men each Company are		
One Regiment of Marines consisting of seven	}	800
Companies each 80 Men		
One Troop European Horse		
Three Regiments of Natives consisting of		2000
Sepoys		6000

Marine.

2 Ships of Sixty four & seventy Guns.
4 D. fifty, forty five, & forty Guns.
1 Great Ship of thirty Six Guns.
1 Patacho or Frigate of thirty Six Guns.
50 Munchinas & Gallivats carrying ten or twelve Guns each.
2 Boats, or Fire Ships of 14 Guns each.

Extracts of News received at Bussorah under the 21 & 27 Sept. 1774

Aleppo the 1 Sept. 1774 A Chetadan arrived to Day from Constantinople
but brings no Letters either For France, or the Native Mer-
chants. He reports that the Peace is concluded between
the Turks & Russians after a Bloody Battle. That the
Visier did a natural Death, & Soliman Pasha has
succeeded him in that great Charge. The News of the Peace
is believed by every Body. The Merchant (Custom Master) has
assured my Druggerman of it. In a few Days it
will be confirmed by Letters that I may hand it to you by
our Mysore of 11 Aug^r.

Bussorah the 7 Sept 1774. Received Advice from Constantinople

Dard

Extracts of Europe & Intelligence from Bussorah

12
Fort St George 14th Janry 1775

Dated about the 10 August, That the Peace between the Turks
& Russians was proclaimed for Eleven Years. The Advisers were
sent to some of our Country Merchants from Bagdad. The
Tartar who brought them to Bagdad was 20 Days on
his Journey. -

Publick Gazettes

The King of France died of the small Pox in May last Aged
64 & succeeded by his Grandson Louis the 16th. The old King's
3 Daughters by attending their Father caught the small
Pox, & have all recovered. The New King intends to be in-
coronated. Great Changes in the French Ministry. The
Duke de Choiseul & the Duke de Praslin recalled to the Court.
Madame De Barri forbid the Court &c.

Constantinople 9 August 1774 On the 21 of last Month the Peace
between the Turks & Russians was signed & concluded by
Prince Repnin & General Romanzoff with the Visier at
Carnagute. The Preliminaries are not yet known so that
we can only guess at the heads of them. But we may
imagine them not very favorable to the Turks. They are
reported to be. 1st Crimea Independent. The free Naviga-
tion of the Black Sea to the Russians, Killung of
Cape to the Russians. The Greek Churches to be under the
Russian Protection, & if any men are required, The Turks
are to grant them. The Ozarina, or Empress of Russia
to be styled Cadihana, & their Titles equal in their Letters,
term for term. Choiseul & Biron returned to the Turks
but disappointed, & to remain so. Walatof & Mc Davin
returned also. But the Inhabitants to choose their
Prince. The Visier since dead, supposed to have made
away with himself, or died of a broken Heart, saying him-
self under the Necessity of signing a dishonorable Peace
which might in an unfavorable occasion the Sp. of his Land.

B. Fort St George 14 January 1775

upon his arrival here. To the foregoing Articles being those of
the last Congress it is supposed the Turks will be obliged to
pay the Expenses of the War since the Congress is the sum
of about 40 Millions of Dollars. The free Trade that will
in future be allowed the Russians to all parts of the
Grand Signior's Dominions it is expected will have a
very good Effect on trade in general. But in turn may
greatly hurt the East India Trade to England.

Constantinople 25 August 1774 All the Russian Troops are
marching Home, I have passed the Danube, the Rus-
sian Men of War are to go home by the white Sea, & all
the Russian Merchant Men, & small Vessels of that Nation
that are in the Archipelago are to come here & load for the
black Sea, Crimea &c. in order to open the trade immedi-
ately. I dare say there are about 50.

Agreed that Copies of the foregoing be immu-
diately transmitted to Bengal. And that the President
be requested to communicate to the Nabs so much
thereof as may be necessary.

Wm. Smith
Joseph Smith
J. H. 1774

Fort St George 14th Janry 1775

12th. Dispathted the following Letter to the Governor and
Council at Fort William.

To the Honible Warren Hastings Esq.
Governor General & Council at Fort William
Honible Sir & Sirs

Letter from Fort St. George
-Warr with copy of
the extracts of the
Intelligence from
Tellicherry

Enclosed are Triplicates of our Letters of the 10th & 11th Inst.

This President this Day received a Letter from Mr.
Boddam at Tellicherry Dated the 31st Ult. an Extract of
which, as also of the Intelligence which accompanied
it, waits on you herewith, & which it appeared necessary to
communicate to you with all Expedition. We have the
Honor to be

Fort St George
14 January 1775

Honible Sir & Sirs

Your most obed^t & most humble Servants
Alexander Wynch Esq. Secy

At a Committee Present
Wednesday Alea^s Wynch Esq. Governor President
25 January Joseph Smith, J. M. Stone
Edward Stracey

Letter to the Honible Court of Directors of this Date
to go by Ship Speke, read and signed. Ordered
that the Packet be closed.

Wynch
Joseph Smith
J. M. Stone

15th Fort St George 1 February 1775

Packet to the Honble the Court of Directors of this Date &
Ship Dutton, closed and delivered

Friday
24th Februry

At a Committee Present
Alexander Wynchelsq. Governor President
Joseph Smith, John Maxwell Stone

Mr Dawson appointed
a Member of this
Committee.

There being a Vacancy in the Com-
-mittee by the resignation and Departure of Mr
-Gray. It is agreed that Mr Dawson be ap-
-pointed therefor

Wynch
Joseph Smith
J. W. / 1775

16 Fort St George 16th March 1775

Thursday
16 March

At a Committee Present
Alexander Wynch Esq Governor President
Joseph Smith, George Darvson
John Maxwell Stone

Received the following Letter from

Sir Edward Hughes

Salisbury Madras Roads
the 16 March 1775

Alexander Wynch Esq
President and Governor and the Gentlemen
of the Select Committee

Letter from Sir Edward Hughes
requesting an account
of the French Forces in
India

Gentlemen!

It is my most sincere Wish, & shall be my constant
Study in the course of my Command in India to culti-
-vate on all occasions a good Understanding, & a confiden-
-tial Communication with the respective Presidencies
and Servants of the Company as well as with the Gov-
-nor General & Council assisting them with that Cordiality
of Consent so necessary for the general Good. This leads me to
inform you that by the best Intelligence that could be pro-
-cured when I left Europe in November 1773, the propensions
of the French Court were friendly, & peaceable, however
as their Situation so very distant from home gives them
an Opportunity sooner, or later, of removing their Scheme
which are only supposed to be laid aside for a more suitable
Occasion, I am enjoined to give the most diligent Attention
for

17 Fort St George 16th March 1775

For procuring all such Intelligence as may throw Lights upon what the French may have in view in this part of the World and to keep a watchful Eye over their Motions & to inform myself by all possible means of the State of the French Forces in India particularly at the Mauritius, this induces me, Gentlemen to pray you with spare no expense or Pains to obtain Intelligence of any Negotiations of the French with the Indian Council, & that I may better judge of any probability of Projects the French may have for as you will procure & give me such accounts as you can of the Number of European Troops there may be separately or collectively in their Service at Pondicherry or in that of any Company's Councils in the Neighbourhood of Masulipatam, or other parts of India.

The Swallow having unfortunately run on shore on Point Gaudourie attended with the Loss of her Masts & Guns was prevented her going to the Coast of Malabar this Season / agreeable to the request to me from the Presidency of Bombay, & as I informed you she would / & for it becomes impracticable to act there, it is also necessary from this accident to inspect her Bottom, which I purpose doing by proceeding with her & the Salisbury to Trincomalee on the Island of Ceylon, there to careen her as well as to shew the little Monsoon, & my Intention is to return here with both Ships about the middle of May.

I have the Honor to be
Sir & Gentlemen
Your most obedient humble Servant
Edward Hughes

The President acquaints the Committee that he has wrote to Mr Whitehead for a particular Account of the French Force
under

18 Fort Saint George 16 March 1775

under Bond Enacted in the service of B as at Jany. Agreed to
deposited to the above Letter sent to the receipt of Mr White.
= hills Answer, that We may be able to give Sir & Hughes
the Information requested.

Wm
Joseph Smith
C. Dawson
& H. H. H.

19 Fort St George 19th June 1775

Wrote the following Letter to Sir Edward Hughes in
reply to his of 16 March

To Sir Edward Hughes
Commander in Chief of his Majestys Ships
In India

Letter to Sir Edward
Hughes in reply to
his of 16 March.

Sir

We have thus long delayed replying to your Fa-
-vour of 16 March in order that We might be enabled to
give you the most particular Informations respecting
the Force of the French in India, & for which our
best Endeavours have been exerted.

By the last Accounts from Pondicherry We have
about their Force there consists of about 700 Europeans
Infantry, 150 Artillery 40 Commissioned Officers of diff-
-erent Ranks, 50 Officers, 50 Lascars, 400 Sepoys & 50 Cann-
that at Madras they have 50 Europeans, 50 Sepoys

Barakat Jung the Brother to the Nizam who at
present possesses the Government of Juntoor, or Martizingur
has for a considerable time past had a Number of
Europeans mostly French in his Service. By the latest
& best Accounts We have been able to obtain, his pre-
-sent Force consists of 150 European Troopers, 269 Euro-
-pean Infantry, 300 Sepoys, & 1200 Sepoys; of these
69 European Infantry have lately joined him. He has
also lately by means of the French received a considerable
supply of Military Stores.

195 Chests of Gun Powder

127 Do. of Flint

371 Do. of Fire Arms

50 Bags of Shot

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3000 Cannon Shots

14 Large Guns

14 Small Guns

Altho' We believe that we have no Views to the Discontent of the Company, yet We cannot be too grateful of his Motions considering the Number of French he has in his Service - We have the Honor to be with Esteem

Fort St George
19 June 1775

Sir

Your most obed^t little Servants

Alex Wynch & Committee

Received this Day of Success, the following Letter from Bombay accompanying Extract of one from Lord's Council Secretary, & a Copy of an Address to that Presidency from the Residents at Orissa.

To the Honble Alexander Wynch Esq.
President & Governor of Council
at Fort St George

Letter from Bombay

Honble Sir & Gentlemen!

You were advised from the Board under the 10 April of this year of the arrival of the two Companies of European Infantry that you had sent to our Assistance, We are now to acquaint you that the whole of the Battalion of Sepoys under the Command of Captain Kelly is also safely arrived with about 100 Men that are on Board the Ship Calcutta, which has been for some Days past expected from the Coast.

The two Companies of European Infantry were sent to join our Forces as presently engaged in assisting to resist the Ragemant Rane the Beshwa in the supreme Government of the Malabar; our Forces in conjunction with those of the Beshwa are at present in possession of the same towards

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towards Coornab. In 5 successive Engagements they have had
with the Ministerial Army, they have always been victorious
& without any Loss to our Forces / the advantage has always been
obtained by them / except in the last which happened on the
18th Ult. when the Victory was more complete than in any
of the former Actions, & the numbers of the Enemy killed, & of
their Horses very considerable indeed, yet owing to an accident
or mistake a Detachment of our Forces sustained considerable
Loss being that whereas the Madras Infantry were posted, the
Loss sustained by your Infantry was 2 Commissioned Officers
& 14 Non Commissioned Officers & Private Men killed & 1
Officer & 20 Non Commissioned Officers & Private Men
wounded, the particulars of this Affair are related by Lieut
Col Keating in a Letter to Us, an Extract of which We now
enclose for your Information.

We have lately learnt by Advice from the Resident at Coornab
that an Embassy has been sent by the Dutch at Coornab to
the Nabob Hyder Ally at Seringapatam, & that there is great
reason to suppose that a Treaty has been entered into between
them, whereby the Dutch in consideration of Grants for
the purchase of Bepoor & Sandal Wood, have engaged to give
the Nabob by Sea & Land in making a Conquest of the Tran-
sversore Country. A Copy of the Letter containing this Inteli-
gience is enclosed, & should it be any Ways Useful, We shall
be happy in having communicated it to You.

The enclosed Packet for the Chief at Seringapatam, We request
You will be pleased to forward. We are with esteem

Bombay Castle
1 June 1775

Respectful Sir & Gentlemen

Your most obed^t & aff^l Servants

W. Hornby

D. Drafter

J. Mostyn & B. Fletcher

22 Fort George 19th June 1775

Extract of a Letter from Lieutenant Colonel Thomas Mearns Commanding Officer of the Forces with Nagabati to the Select Committee at Bombay Dated at Betagser Camp the 19 May 1775

As soon as the Enemy's Guns began firing, I rode to the rear & found Capt Meyers moving according to Orders. When near enough, our Guns & Mortars fired on their Army, & at their Cannons, until the former fled, & the latter were silenced. Capt Meyers & several other Officers then reported to me that two of the Guns belonging to the Enemy were sent a little to the right of the Division engaged, & the Enemy cutting down Hedges to make room for carrying them off. On this Information, I ordered the Second Company of European Grenadiers from the head of the Line of March to join Capt Meyers's Division, & directed Capt Meyers to endeavour to possess himself of the two Guns, ordering him to assail himself of the strong Mulla Bush Enclosure & Wood, & move with the utmost regularity. To cover them, I remained with the Guns 2. 12th, one 6, & one 8 Inch Mortars. Soon after, the Division with Captains Meyers quitted their Ground. I observed them move much too quick; I called to them to slacken their pace which they then did, But I soon find that they were soon after ordered to move on rapidly; However, they got well formed near the Guns, when the Enemy charged them from their left with a very large Body which I combated with round & Case Shots, & with the Musquet, they were soon repulsed. They charged a second time, & were again repulsed, at this time, Captains Meyers & Surt were killed. Just at the Moment a very large Body of the Enemy with two War Elephants got into a Lane immediately in the rear of the Division, But I observed they were Nagabati's Army, & this was affirmed by one of his Officers named Hurry Bunt, & was heard by many.

Extract of a Letter from Lt Col Mearns advising of the success of an engagement with the Mulla Bush Enclosure & Wood, & the Death of Capt Meyers & Surt

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many of our People, & some of our Hindian Horse calling to
the Enemy to advance, and saying, Now is your time, here are the
English without their Guns. These Circumstances added to
the Endeavours of the Horse & Elephants to break in on
the Division, obliged them to face to the right about, &
give them a general Fire which totally routed them.
Thus were the Enemy repulsed in Front & Rear with great
Loss to them, & very little to us, when the first Company
of European Grenadiers were ordered by the rest of the Divi-
sion to go to the right about, & make a running March, or
retreat from their Ground. This occasioned the Sepoys & Madras
Infantry to follow their Examples, But not further than to
join the Grenadiers. This they alternated very quick, it
was something regular until they came to the Mulla Bank
Hedges in their more rear away Front where the openings
were very small. There commenced their Destruction. Every
Man pushed before him with out observing the least
Order, this repeatedly called upon by most of their Officers, the
Enemy observing their Confusion, rode among them sword
in hand & cut great Numbers to Pieces. As soon as I ob-
served our Men in this Disorder, I ordered all our Fire
to cover their retreat, & went to rally them. The first I met
were the Grenadiers flying as a rabble before us about fifty
Horse who were cutting them down without Opposition
With great Difficulty I got them to the right about
& ordered them to fire, instead of which, they answered,
these our Friends. Your Friends said I see them cut-
ting down our Sepoys under parts of Bayonet. This
was the Case, they were not 15 Yards distant. The Mo-
ment I assured them it was the Enemy in place of
firing, they fled shamefully without firing a single
Musket, this our Cannon was scarce 40 Yards distant

from

24 Fort George 19th June 1775

from them, nor did they halt for some time. Then it was that our Artillery made amazing Standy later. In a few minutes our Cannon shot covered the Field with their Dead Bodies; But it is a Business I cannot account for, that in spite of every annoyance, these people always carry off their Dead. On this occasion they lost immense Numbers by their Attention to it not more than nine or ten were left Behind.

As far as was in our power, We advanced upon the Enemy, & totally repulsed them after the above strange & full retreat in which we sustained our whole Loss which I believe is greater than ever was known in India out of the same Number engaged. Of fifteen Officers six were killed - Captains Meyers & Serle, Lieutenants Myles Honey & Prosper & Anderson; and five badly wounded Captain Frith, Lieutenants Dawson & Young, Ensigns Dawson & Tarring, for the rest of the killed & wounded, I beg leave to refer your Honor to the accompanying Return.

After remaining on the Field of Battle to bury our Dead, & provide Conveyance for our wounded, We marched for this place, which is one League from the Mouth of the River Mahie where we propose marching to morrow having persuaded the Festivato to remain on this side during the Rains.

The Enemy's Loss must be very considerable indeed tho' the Numbers as yet are not mentioned from any Accounts. Our Intelligence in general is exceeding bad. Three Elephants were left dead on the Field, & a great Number of Horses. At the first Attack they watered on. In total upwards of five hundred died of their Wounds. Two thousand good Horses would be a great assistance in a Victory as was gained in India. But two hundred cannot be provided in this Army. Indeed I

wrote

25 Fort S^t George 19th June 1775.

Impute a great deal of their backward Behaviour to their
having no Pay & scarce Provision to eat.

A true Copy
George Skippin^{sr}

To the Honble William Hornby Esq^r
President & former & Members of the Select Committee
on Bombay

Honble Sir & Sirs!

Letter from some
advising of an
to say from the
Dutch to Hyderabad
the chief object of
which appears to
commercial Com-
munion between them

The occasion of this separate Address is principally to acquaint
Your Honor & that some Dutch Ambassadors from Cochin are
accompanied by Isaac Surgen have proceeded to Seringapatam
& there is great reason to suspect have entered into a Treaty
with the Nabs greatly to the prejudice of the Honble Com-
pany's Interest on the Malabar Coast, for M^r Adams
informs me that a Scheme is actually on foot which
only waits the approval & Support of the General & Council of
Batavia, some particulars of which M^r Adams has
secretly obtained, & are as follows - "That the Nabs is to let
"the Dutch have all the Pepper & Sandal Wood produced
"in his Country, & they, in return, are to assist him in building
"a Fleet & to send to Seringapatam, two or
"hundred European Soldiers & a Dutch Commandant, &
"they have further engaged to assist by Land & Sea to make a
"Conquest of the Travancore Country."

The Ambassadors are to return to Sering-
apatam in six Months, for they conclude by that time,
the Ships may arrive from Batavia with all the necessary
means to carry the Scheme into Execution; But whether
all this will really end in their Junction a little time
will, I suppose, investigate, tho' it is now pretended to
form any Judgment on the Nabs's Conduct for some time
that

26 Fort St. George 19 June 1775

past, there is reason to think he has some Scheme in view
to enlarge his Power on this Coast as he has lately sent down
Orders for building and equipping twelve Ships and Grabs be-
sides Gallivatts at the Port of Calicut many where Cauda
-rove and this Place, and they are all actually in hand
which together with the vessels he has used this Season
with the Investment of Pepper & Sandal Wood, & the
immense Quantity of Sandal Wood delivered & not any
of the Sandal Pepper must at least denote the
Nabob's Indifference to continue on the former friendly
Footings with the Honble Company. Tho' I must observe to
Your Honor &c. that their espousing the Cause of Ragobah
has alarmed him so much already, as to draw from him
lately a Letter importing, that he has issued strong
Orders for the five hundred Caudies of Sandal &
Pepper being delivered us without Delay, But I
must presume to offer my Opinion founded on a
positive Proof of his real Character, that both the
Dutch Scheme noticed by Mr. Adams and the future
Treatments the Company may expect to receive in
this Country greatly depends on the termination of the
Mahratta War, if our Arms prove successful in subduing
Ragobah in the Sovereign Authority at Poona, The
Nabob will then be managing able, as he will, on the contrary
happening, be totally unprovided of the ill consequences
that must result to the Company's Settlements on this
Coast from his League with the Dutch, or indeed any other
Power whom he can make to serve his present purpose.

I should before have mentioned to your Honor
&c. that the Nabob has advanced the Dutch Ambassadors
Ten thousand Rupees by a Draft on his Governor at
Calicut in order to provide Artificers for building
his

27 Fort St George 19th June 1775

this Ship.

Thinking it my Duty to lay these Circumstances
before you I remain with the greatest Respect

Onore 8 May 1775

A true Copy

Geo Skippin Secy

Honble Sir & Sirs

Your most obedient

Humble Servant

William Townsend

20 In consequence of the receipt of the foregoing the follow-
ing Letter is as this Day dispatched to the Governor General
& Council of Fort William

To the Honble Warren Hastings Esq
Governor General & Council
at Fort William

Letter to Bengal
advising them
thereof.

Honble Sir & Sirs

A Packet under your address from the Select Committee at
Bombay was yesterday received by the Success Gally & forwarded
over land.

Altho' we doubt not but the Gentlemen of Bombay have
communicated to your Honor & particular Intelligence re-
garding their Operations yet we have thought it necessary
to transmit to you Copy of their Letter to us & of the Papers
which accompanied it

The Intelligence mentioned in Mr Townsend's Letter ac-
-pecting Hyder Ally's Designs against the Rajah of Trav-
-cor, we believe to have but little Foundation as the Rajah
is expressly included in the Treaty entered into between this
Government & Hyder Ally in 1769 & we can scarce think
that Hyder Ally will venture to break the Treaty by attack-
ing the Rajah. We have the Honor to be Honble Sir
& Sirs

Your most obedt, & most humble Servt

Alex^r Wyndham Esq
Secy to the Committee

Fort St George 20 June 1775

28 Fort St George 4th July 1775

Tuesday
4 July

At a Committee Present
Alexander Wynch Esq^r Governor President
Joseph Smith, George Dawson
John Maxwell Stone

Packed & Sealed
and

Packed to the Hon^{ble} Court of this Date p^r His
Majesty's Ships Swallow signed and closed.

Wynch
Joseph Smith
G. Dawson
J. H. Wynch

29 Fort St George 14th October 1775

Forwarded this Day of Nottingham to the
Honble Court the Proceedings of this Committee from
the 25 January last.

Monday
30 October

At a Committee Present
Alexander Wyrick Esq. Governor Presid.
George Davison, _____
Mr Stone indisposed

Sir R Fletcher
admitted as Mem-
ber of the Committee

The Committee being met, & the former
Proceedings read over, Sir Robert Fletcher takes his Seat
as a Member of this Board agreeable to the Orders of
the Honble the Court of Directors.

Wyrick

C. Davison

3/ Separate Proceedings
of the

Select Committee

at

Fort Saint George

1 Fort S^t George February 1775

At a Committee Present

Alex Wyrick Esq Governor President

13 February

Joseph Smith, John Maxwell Stone

Edward Stracey

The President acquaints the Committee that he desired
them meeting him to advise them, that he has the greatest rea-
son to think, that Colonel M^r Lear & M^r James Johnson who
contracted on the Debtors are charged with some joint Negotia-
tion for the Navy.

He has for some time observed that Intriguers are
carrying on at the Durbar, But that of late they had proceeded
to much greater lengths than he apprehended they could
have done; And that the Company may have a proper view
of them, he shall lay before the Committee such Information
as he has been able to obtain. From the manner the Asiatics
do all Business of this kind, He here premises that it must be
evident to the Committee, that it will be impossible for him
to prove the Facts asserted, or to detect the Party in their In-
trigues. But thus much he will take upon him to say, that
He is assured the Events will prove the Assertions made to
him to be true.

During the course of the last Year the Scheme of making
approachations

32

2. Fort St George 13th February 1775

Applications to other parts was adopted when October Mr James Johnson was sent to Bengal, but returned from thence before he was expected, not being able to effect the Business. He went on the Nabor & his second Son, from this failure of their hopes of Success were induced to turn themselves towards England. An Opportunity offered by the Doctor, & they embraced it contrary to the Opinions of the Durbar. The following are the Subjects of the Embassy to his Majesty, as I am informed.

That the Nabor has been long oppressed by the Company & their Servants here, & intreats his Majesty that he may not have Commission with, or be the least controuled by the Governor & Council of Madras, or the Superior Council of Bengal: only to be connected with the King of England. That the Company's Troops may be withdrawn from the different Forts in the Carnaticke, as in many respects their being stationed there prove repugnant to his Honor and Interest. That he may have Permission to reduce the Mysore Country with his own Troops. That he may be allowed to rent the Arcans to the Northward. That as there is no Moorish or Raste or Fannity in the Province of Bengal &c. he desires his Majesty will accept of his Proposals for renting the whole Southastrip. That he the President understands that the great Design of this Negotiation is to have a special permission for removing the eldest Son to Bengal, so that the succession of the Carnaticke may be clear for his second Son.

That the President further understands that the Nabor has commissioned, that his Majesty may be requested to assure this Government to him self, & that the Company may be considered in no other respect than as British and Merchants, & that he would send out Rupte from himing to the Charge.

That

29

3 Fort George 13 Febry 1775

That the Negotiation is carried on at an immense
Expense and with considerable Power & Latitude.

Agreed that the foregoing Intelligence be
communicated to the secret Committee of the Court of Di-
rection by the Ship now under Disposition.

Wm. M. M.
Joseph Smith
C. H. M.

3

4 Fort St George 15th February 1775

At a Committee Present

Wednesday. Alex^r Wynch Esq. Governor President
15 Feby Joseph Smith, John Maxwell Stone
Edward Stracey

General Letter of this Date to the Secret Com-
mittee of the Honble the Court of Directors to go & Sea
Shore read and signed. Ordered that the Packet
be closed.

Wynch
Joseph Smith
JMS