The entries made in

pencil on the margin in the

Volume were made with the

help of the papers in the

bundle at the time of the

weeding and destruction of

records.

RJ
26.10.42

73 A 16

Diary and Proceedings of the Select Committee of Fort St. George, commencing 1st January, 1781.

1. Fort St. George, January, 1781.

3. Came in the following Letter,

To the Honble the President,
and Select Committee,

Honble Sir & Sirs,

I had the honor to address you yesterday. The Enemy only fired three shot this Morning and that very slow. They are collecting materials to the Southward of us for making a Battery and have taken possession of the Bank of a Tank, which for merely ever to exercise, I have the honor to be,

Honble Sir and Sirs,

Your most obt Servant,

Ross Lang

From Colt Lang, with Intelligence. The Enemy Collecting materials to make a Battery.

Vellore,
20th Decem 1780.

2. Fort, S.t George, January, 1701.

At a Select Committee, Present,

Thursday, 4th January 1701. The Honble Charles Smith Esq.r Gov.r Geo.r
S.r G.l Sir Eyre Coote K.B. Sam.l Johnson Esq.r
Maj.r G.l Sir H. Munro K.B. Alex.r Davidson Esq.r

The Minutes of last Committee
Read and approved.

The President lays before the Committee the following Letter, which he has received from Mr. Whitehill.

To Charles Smith Esq.r

Sir,

In September last I sent an order for Pag.s 14,000. on the Hillidar of Vellore to Mr. Ogilvie the Pay-master there as a supply for the Disbursements of that Garrison. I have since been informed that the order was duly acknowledged and that Mr. Ogilvie has received the Amount, I have therefore to request that You will direct the abovementioned Sums to be paid to me from the Company's Treasury

From Mr. Whitehill requesting the Payment of money advanced the Pay: master at Vellore.

I am, Sir, Your most Ob.t humble Servant, John Whitehill

Fort S.t George the 2.d January 1701.

Ordered

3. Fort St. George, 4th January 1781.

Ordered p.

Ordered, that the Ballance of the above account be paid to Mr. Whitehill;

The Secretary acquaints the Committee that Capt. Pringle hath sent in a demand for 100 Pag.s promised by order of Genl. Munro, & Mr. Whitehill to a party of his guides and a Facquire, who detected the treasonable Correspondence that was carrying on between Mohabutdah, and the Enemy, as was proved previous to the punishment of Mohabutdah.

100 Pag.s to be paid to a party of the guides. L

Ordered that the Sum be paid,

The President lays before the Committee a Bill from Capt. Nutt, Commander of the Duke of Kingston for Pag.s 387. 9. 20.

Capt. Nutts Bill for the maintenance of the Bengal Troops agreed to the Court of Directors.

for the maintenance of the Bengal Detachment that came round with him, with

Genl. Cooke. Resolved, that this demand be referred to the Consideration of the Court of Directors.

As the Settlement of Cuddalore is in absolute want of a supply of Cash, Ordered, that 5000 Star Pagodas be sent thither by the

5000 Pag.s to be sent to Cuddalore

Cooleroop, with an Injunction at the same time to the Chief & Council, that the Disbursements of this Sum be confined entirely to Military Purposes.

Read.

6. Fort St. George 4th Janry. 1781

an Enemy in my Passage to Europe.

I am,

Sir,

with Respect

Your most ob.t Servant,

Justinian Nutt.

Fort St. George

3d. of Janry. 1781.

The President is desired to en-

quire into the nature of this affair, and

Minute thereon. to take such steps in it, as shall appear

to him proper & necessary.

Read a Letter from the Com:

mittee of Works.

To The Honble Charles Smith Esqr.

President &c. Select Committee of

Fort St. George

Honble Sir & Sirs,

Accompanying this we

lay before Your Honors &c. Copies of Mr.

from Committee of Works

Blumer's Bills, Certified by the Chief

Engineer and acting Commissary General

for work done on the South, East and

North Fronts of Fort St. George in the

Year 1780. together with a Copy of Mr.

Benfield's Account Current with the

Committee of Works from the 1st. of

December 1779. to the 1st. December 1780.

The Balance of which is Pag.s 6,101..10..71

in his Favor, which Mr. Blumer requests

may

7. Fort St. George 4th Janry. 1781

may be at least partly discharged, in order that he may be enabled to proceede with the Work which remains to be executed.

We likewise lay before your Honor &c. a Copy of Mr. Blumer's Bill for Work lately done to the Black Town Wall, amounting to Pag.s 2102.12.50. which the Engineer acquaints us was executed in Consequence of a Verbal Order of the Governor's to him during the late Troubles from the Comm.r Alarms, and as there is no Contract for Work of the same Kinds, it being wet Stiff tempered Clay and Straw, such Charges have been made for it by Mr. Blumer as are reasonable, and in proportion to such as have been allowed for Work most resembling it. As we have not received your order for this Work, and as this, as well as the Work done in Parapets and Bangnetts amounting to Pag.s 7414.37.55. has not been contracted for, We think it incumbent upon us to remark the same to your Honor &c. and submit thence reasonableness of the Charges to you,

We are with great respect

Honble

Fort St. George 4th. Janry. 1781

Honble Sir & Sirs,

Your most obedient and
most humble Servants
Alex.r Davidson.
Ed.d Saunders.
Geo.s Maule.
Cha.s Dent.

Fort St. George
16th. Decem.r 1780.

The Honble Company on account of the
D.r } undermentioned Works performed by Contractors

Earth filled in

	Rods. ft.		
East Front	1722.23 twice moved a 20 f. p. R.d		820. 7. 15
North East Blind	843. twice moved a 20 f. p. R.d		401. 18. —
Lunette before Kennil & Royal Bastions and N.E. Counterguard	7723.20 once moved a 14 f.r		257 4 19. 30.
North East Lunette			
Earth twice moved	1844.31 @ 20 f. p. R.d	878.4	
Ditto once moved	800 @ 14 f. p. R.d	266.20	
			1144. 32. —
North West Lunette			
Earth twice moved	2480 @ 20 f. p. R.d	1180.40.	
Ditto once moved	840.21 @ 14 f. p. R.d	280.6.20	
			1461. 4. 60.
North Glacis			
Earth once moved	1339.20 @ 14 f. p. R.d	446.4	
D.o twice D.o	3712.22 @ 20 f. p. R.d	1767.32.70	
			6231. 32. 70.
Saluting Battery			
Earth filled in for. from over Bri.			
over	Rods 116.32 @ 18 f. p. R.d		49. 39. —
Carried forward Pags 2 Rs.			12.683 26. 10.

12683

Q. Fort St. George 4th Janry. 5781

Brought forward — 12.623.29.10 — 12

Fort St. George. 1st Decem.r 1780 E.E.

J. Hall Plumer.

for Paul Benfield Contr.

The measurement certified to be exact

and agreeable to terms of Contract

Geo. Maule.

Major & Chief Engr.

Ex.d per

A Brodie

act.g Comm.g Gen.l

A true copy

J. Balfour

Clk to the Comm.e of works

Dr } The Honble Company on account of the under-
mentioned works performed by Contract. Viz.t

East Front

Plain brick work 6 F. 2 1403.11 @ 1.34 P. Sq.r Yd — 3879.40.77

Arched brick work — 735.0.11.9

@ 3.10 P. Sq.r Yd — 23.801.17.15 — 6253.16.12

North East Blind

Plain Brick work — 1744.19.9 @ 1.34 P. Sq.r Yd — 3157.5.18

North East Lunette

Plain brick work — 4358.12.4 @

1.34 P. Sq.r Yd — 7097.5.48

Arched Brick work — 357.25.9 @

3.10 P. Sq.r Yd — 1159.3.57 — 9024.9.25

Carried forward — 747 34.30.55

10. Fort St. George 4th January 1781

				Brought forward	74734.30.66
North West Lunette					
Plain brick work	6501.3	@ 1.34	Pg. 7/8	9954.16.35	
Arched do	356.12.8	@ 3.10	1154.11.64		11100.28.19
Gallery & Demi Caponier					
Plain brick work	19553	@ 1.34	7/8	3537.36.6	
Arched do	2332	@ 3.10	756.41.62		4294.35.68
North Glacis and Sortie					
Plain brick work	6867	@ 1.34	7/8	2291.41.66	
Saluting Battery					
Plain brick work	299.24	@ 1.34	7/8	542.27.44	
				Pagodas	92972.30.12

Fort St. George 1st Decemr 1780 E.E.

J. Hall Plumer
For Paul Benfield
Contr.

The measurement certified to be exact and agreeable to terms of Contract

Geo. Maule
Major & Chief Engr

Exd. & Fd
A. Brodie
Actg. Commy. Genl

A true Copy
J. Balfour
Clk to the Comme. of works

Dr

Fort St. George 11th Janry. 1781

The Honble Company on account of the under-
Dr. mentioned Works in Parapets & Banquettes Viz.t

Plain Brick Work in Parapets			
on N.W.t Fronts in Clay	79.274 Cub.t Ft.	@ 1.60 Pag.s	3303..3..40.
Do in Chunam	12.472.9	@ 2.60 Pags	816..28..50.
Do on Edge	5840.6	@ 3.40 Pags	764..24..60.
Earth filled in Parapets Bods	5377.9 Cub.t Ft.		
@ 20 Pags			2560..22..65
Pagodas			7344..37..55

Fort St. George 1.st Decem.r 1780 E.E.

Jos Walk Blumer
for Paul Benfield
Contr.

The measurement certified to be exact

Geo. Maule
Major & Chief Engr

Ea.t Jos
J. Brodie
act.g Comm.y Gen.l

A true Copy
J. Balfour
Sec.y to the Govern.t of the Ft

12. Fort St. George 1st Janry 1701

Dr. Thottonble company on account of the under-
mentioned Stone works performed by Contract Vizt.

On East Front.

Blue Stone Wrot to a clear toold face

Sup.fl 1700. @ 2. 10 ₰ S.F. 3004.32.

Do to a plain Worg face 2180 @ 1.36 ₰ 1048.24. 7853 14.

In North East Counterguard.

Blue Stone Wrot to a plain Worg face 110.6 @ 1.36 ₰ Sup.fl S.F. 205.9.

In North Gallery

Blue Stone Wrot to a plain Worg face 44.3 @ 1.36 Do. 82.7.40.

In North East Lunette

Blue Stone Wrot to a plain Worg face 152.6 @ 1.36 ₰ Do. 283.9.

In North West Lunette

Blue Stone Wrot to a plain Worg face 111. @ 1.36 Do. 206.6.

Pagodas. 8630.3.40.

Fort St. George 1st Decr 1700. E.E.

Ja Hall & Plumer

for Paul Benfield

Contr

The measurement certified to be exact and
agreeable to terms of Contract

Geo: Maule.

Major & Chief Engr

Co. of

A. Brodie

Actg Commty. Genl

A true Copy

J. Balfour

Clk to the Commty of Stores

Lv

11

13. Fort St. George 4th Janry. 1781 — —

Dr. The Honble Company on account of the under-
mention'd works done to the Black Town Wall

	Cubic Yds. Ft. Inc.		
To brick Work in Drains.	65.22.6 @ 1½ Pr Yard	—	98.. 31.. 40
To brick work of Platforms	451.. @ 1 Pr Do		451.. — —
To Clay & Straw work in Parapet	Rods 30 ¼ @ 265 Pr Rod		1027.. 41..
To Earth moved in Excavations of Ditch & including Bailing Water	Rods 4875 @ 10 Pr Pk	—	1160.. 30.. — —
To Earth filled in to make good in Ramparts	Rods 169 ¾ @ 14 Pr Rod		564.. — —
	Pagodas —		4102 18.. 40.. —

Fort St. George
15th Nov. 1780. E.E. Pr Hall Plumer —

The measurement certified to be exact

Geo. Maule
Major & Chief Engr

Ed. Pr
A. Brodie
Actg Commy. Genl

A true Copy.
J. Balfour
Clerk to the Commr of Works

14. Fort St. George 1st. Janry. 1781 ---

Dr. The Committee of Works in account Current with

Pagd. Fo. C. -

1779. -
December - 1. To Balance of Account Curt. of this Date - 44.244.15.70.

To allowance for Extraordinary Excavation
on East Front - - - - - - - - - - - - 1500.24. -

1780
December - 1. To Brick Work performed on the East
Front at the N. E. angle as p. Bill - 92,972.38.12.
To Earth Work performed Do Do - 12,603.26.18
To Stone Work - - - - - Do. Do. - - 1630.2.40.
To Brick Work & coin Parapets of St.
Front and N. E. angle - - - - - - 744.37.55.

Pagodas. - 172,484.1935.

Fort St. George
1st. December 1780. E.E.

P. Balk. Plumer
for Paul Benfield
Contr.

A true Copy

J. Balfour
Sec. to the Committee

15 Fort St. George 4th Janry 1781

Paul Benfield contractor for the East Front &c. &c.

		Pags	Fs	C
1779. December 1st	By Bonds granted for the Balance of last Account Current and for allowance for Excavation	50,752.	39.	70
1780. December 1st	By Cash advanced from 1st Decr 79 to this date	50,140.		
	By Materials delivered during the above Period	21,320.	21.	14
Candie	By 200 Candies Copper bought at Country Prices	14,161.	31.	60
		1,36,383.	0.	44
	By Balance due to Mr. Benfield	36,101.	10.	71
	Pagodas	172,484.	10.	30

Resolved

16 Fort St. George 4th Janry. 1781 — — —

Resolved that Mr. Plumers bills be passed
Minute thereon. and that the Balance amounting to Pago tas —
36,101,10,71. be paid.

Read a Letter from Mr. Robert Smith Bird
to the Secretary.
To Richd. Joseph Sullivan Esq.
Secry. to the Select Committee — — —

Sir.

Mr. Whitehill, in whose Family I have
lived for some time past, has desired I will attend him
to Europe. But, as I cannot comply with his
request, without injuring my views in the
Service, unless I have the permission of the
From Mr. Bird, Honble the Select Committee, I am to beg the
for leave to go favor you will lay my application before
home. — them, for leave to accompany Mr. Whitehill
to the Duke of Kingston. At the same
time I flatter myself, that my Conduct has
been such, as will procure me the indulgence
of a recommendation to the Honble Court
of Directors to return with my rank in the
line of Surgeon on this Establishment.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your most obt. Servant
Robt. Smith Bird.

Fort St. George
29th Decr. 1780

Agreed, that Mr. Bird be
permitted to accompany Mr. Whitehill to
England

17 Fort St. George 4th January 1781 —

agreed &c.

England, and that he be recommended to the Court of Directors to return with his rank in the Service.

Lieut. Gen. Sir Eyre Coote delivers in a minute & papers which is read, & which it is Resolved shall be sent as sealed numbers in the Packet by the Duke of Kingston. Together with a minute of the Committee on the same Subject. neither of which are to be at present entered upon the Records.

The Commander in Chief takes leave to recommend to the notice of the Committee; the merits of Capt. Bishop his Aid du Camp. whose Father, Col. Bishop, rendered the most essential services to the Company, during the course of the last war, without having been in a situation to have been requited any thing, whilst he was in India. The Commander in Chief in mentioning Capt. Bishop to their consideration, is actuated as well from a regard for his Father Colonel Bishop's Memory, as from an earnest desire of serving, so valuable a young man; at the same time that he knows the point he has to urge is in a line that some of the Directors had it in agitation to provide for him. To this end he recommends that Capt. B. be removed with his rank to the Cavalry —

Capt. Bishop removed with his rank to the Cavalry

Ordered accordingly —

ordered accordingly

18. Fort St. George - January 1781.

4th Sent the following Letter.

Wm Robt Smith Bird,

Sir,

I am directed by the Honble the President & Select Committee, to acquaint you, that in Compliance with Mr Whitehill's desire, you have their permission to accompany that Gentleman to England. The enclosed is an extract of their Gen.l Letter to the Court of Directors, by which you will perceive, that you are recommended to the indulgence of returning with your Rank in the line of Surgeons on this Establishment - I am,

Sir,

Your most obed.t Servant

Ra.d Sullivan,
Secy

Dr Bird has Leave to go to England -

Fort St George
4th January 1781.

Received the following Letters -

To the Honble John Whitehill Esq.r

Gov.r & Counc.l & Select Committee -

Honble Sirs and Sirs,

I have accompanying, a Paper in Arabic Journal of a Jogan that was brought me; and, I send it to your Honors to judge what Conduct is followed by His Highness the Nabob's Servants who are in trust in this Country - It plainly paints out that in place of preventing, they encourage the Coligars - the Coligars acts of hostility against the Sircar. And if some steps are not taken soon by

From Capt. Eiding-ton concerning the Coligars -

19 Fort St George - January 1781

4th by His Highness, or your Honours to prevent those vile Consequences, I am apprehensive that the Poligars of Shevagrys being in sight of the Port of Shevalapore, (the most to this in Consequence and of it's situation, the Key to that Country) will be sent a small part of the Mischief that you may expect shortly to hear of. - I have the Honor to be,

Honble Sir & Sirs,

Your respectful and
obedient Servant,

James Eidington.

Calamedah
10th Novr 1780.

To the Honble Charles Smith Esqr
Pres. & Gov. &c. &c. Select Committee
Fort St George. -

Honble Sir & Sirs,

I have the Honor to transmit you herewith, an account of deficiency of Stores consigned to me by the Military Store Keeper Honble Company's at Fort St. David's, and to inform you, that the rest are safe arrived here; the powder which both Colo. Nixon sent an escort to Adrampat. for, is safe arrived at Tanjore; & I am sorry to observe, Porcamo pro: bability of its coming on, as the escort and Bullocks are returned without a single

Barrel

2d. Fort St. George - January 5th 1781 —

4th Battalion

In my address of the 30th Inst. I
informed your Honour &c. that the arms which
are in store are in a very bad condition, & took
the freedom to point out that the Troops
might be supplied from the Nabob's Stores,
where there are some thousands of fine new
From W. Falke arms, and a great plenty of almost every other arti-
concerning Stores cle; which, in Regard to Economy, I recommend
that they be put under my immediate
charge, as I shall then have the less occasion for
purchasing any.

The Commanding Officers having
applied for one hundred Coolies to be employed
in repairing some part of the Fortification.
I have complied therewith, but I request to be
favoured with your pleasure, how far I may go.
Should there make a further requisition of this
kind, for any other extraordinary service; In the
meantime I shall comply with all his demands.

I have the Honor to be with the greatest esteem
and Regard

Honble Sir and Sirs,

Your very obedient,

Lieut Governor

Thos Pilk.

Sagar Nattore

Shot 4

Trichinopoly
26th Nov. 1780

21. Fort St. George. January 1781

4th

Shott 18 Pounr — 15

Pigs of Lead — 32

Hand Hatchet — 1

Irons for Mortars

13 Inch — upper — 3

do — lower — 1

To the Honble Charles Smith Esqr

&c. Members of the Select Committee at

Fort St. George.

Honble Sir & Sirs,

Capt. Richards Scott arrived here this Morning with the public packets under his care and will proceed to the Residency by sea as soon as the season will permit — From him we have learnt the Offers made by the Dutch, alluded to by Mr. Light, in the Letter of which Your Honor &c. lately transmitted me an Extract. The Governor of Columbo has empowered Mr. Angelbeek Chief of Jutacoin to inform Mr. Light of his good disposition to assist the English in their present War with Hyder Ally that he cannot make the first overtures but that if the English will solicit assistance from him he is ready to supply them immediately with 2000 Europeans and 2000 Malays upon the following conditions. First, that the English shall obtain for the Dutch due reparation for the Insults & Injuries

from Nagore concerning the Dutch

22. Fort St. George 2 January 1781 — — —

4th Injuries committed by the Rajah or his Managers to their Flag and Settlements on that Coast.
2nd That the English should interfere and cause to accomodate the Dispute that has so long subsisted between the Rajah and the Dutch relative to the Pearl Fishery and obtain for them an equitable share thereof. That other articles relative to transporting the Troops, maintaining them &c. should be settled upon the arrival of any Person or Persons, on the part of the English at Ceylon, empowered by them to treat and settle the above mentioned preliminary articles.

I have the honor to be with the greatest respect,

Honble Sir & Sirs,

Your most obedient
humble servant

(Signed) J. Huddleston.

Nagore 22nd Dec. 1780.

I am concerned to inform You of the Death of Lieut. Jones of this Batt.n which happened the 12th Inst. and of that of Lieut. Terry of the Grenadier Company, with Capt. Barrows which happened Yesterday Morning & the ally — Nagore 26th Decem. 1780.

23. Fort St. George - January - 1781 ——

(Triplicate)

To the Honble Charles Smith Esqr.
President and Select Committee at
Fort St. George

Honble Sir and Sirs.

I am exceedingly concerned to
acquaint you, that the Rajah of Tanjore de-
clared to me last night his inability to furnish
the usual advance of Cash for the Disbursements
of this Garrison a ssigning as the reason, the dis-
turbances in the Country which he says have
obstructed his Collections.

From Mr. Baine concerning the Rajah of Tanjore.

I shall not presume to say
what degree of Credit is due to his declaration,
but as with respect to the Plea on which it is
founded, I think it my duty to acquaint
your honours that the only disturbance in
this Country of which he can complain was
in the District of Sheally and instantly
suppressed by a few Companies of Sepoydies.
Had the Rajah made this de-
claration sooner, or had he ever given me rea-
son to expect a failure in his Payments, I should
have been prepared for the event but far from
giving me this notice, he deceived me into an
advance of what money I could command, by
repeated assurances of the necessary supply, and
when he found my resources exhausted
by the disbursements of the Garrison, thought
proper

24 Fort St. George - January - 1781 - - -

4th proper, once a sudden, to declare his inability
to make good his Engagements.

By the advice of Colonel -
Braithwaite to whom I immediately com-
municated my Embarrassment, I sent an
Express to the Resident at Nagore requesting
of him to afford me all the assistance in
his power, but as a very slender supply
is all that can be expected from him, and
other resources are very precarious, I re-
quest to be favored with your Commands
as soon as possible -

I have the honor to be with great
respect,

Honble Sir & Sirs,

Your faithful humble Servant

D. H. Baine
Paymaster.

Tanjore
29th Nov. 1780.

To the Honble Charles Smith Esqr
President and Select Committee at
Fort St. George

Honble Sir, and Sirs,

I had the honor to address
you under date the 29th Ult. advising you
of a failure in the Rajah's Payments, which
reduced me to a State of great anxiety and
Embarrassment, as I was at that time
totally at a loss how to provide for the
Disbursements

25. Fort St. George - January - 1781 - - -

From M. Braine concerning the Rajah of Tanjore

A Disbursements of the Garrison. I have now however the Pleasure to acquaint You, that after having discharged the People employd on the works, I have managed to make good the usual Payments without necessitating a War Delay, and the Rajah has this Day paid Three Thousand Pagodas on account of the Nov. Payment with a promise of a further Supply in four days more. - If however an Enemy enter the Country in any Force it is much to be feared that the Rajah will stop in his Payments entirely. Col. Brathwaite has therefore requested of me to obtain monthly if possible a larger sum than is required for the immediate Disbursements, that there may be a Balance in hand as a Resource against any disappointment from the Rajah - but to effect this, I must have recourse to your Influence & Authority as my own Solicitations have been ineffectual. That I am now in advance for the Company upwards of ten thousand Pagodas.

I have the Honor to be with great respect.

Honble Sir and Sirs

Your faithfull Hble Servant

D. St. Braine

Paymaster

Tanjore
2nd Decr 1780.

26 Fort St. George January 1781

To the Honble Charles Smith Esqr
1st
Governor & the Select Committee

Honble Sir & Sirs,

I have written your Hon.rs this day
Duplicates which I hope will be forwarded to
you safely by Sea on Catamarans from Nagore
one and the other from Tranquebar. I do not
think it prudent by this Conveyance (the Papal
by Sheally and Cuddalore) to say more than
that the enemy have been driven out of this
Country now clearly beyond the Coleroon, with
some loss and enclose you a note in Cypher
Mr. Baine tells me that he has written
by the Nagore & Tranquebar Conveyances
I have the Honor to be with the greatest respect
Honble Sir & Sirs,

Your faithfull Obt. Servants
John Brathwaite

From Col: Brathwaite
the enemy driven beyond
the Coleroon.

Tanjore
29th Nov.r 1780.

To Richard Sullivan Esqr
Secretary

Sir,

I have just now received your
Letter of the 30th Ult.o enclosing an Extract
of the Proceedings of the Honble the Governor
and Select Committee under date the 27th Ult.o
to which I shall pay strict attention. I have
had the Honor to address both the Honble the
Govr and Select Committee; and the Commander
in

27. Fort St. George - January - 1781.

4th. in chief by several ways, but it is very dubious to me whether my Letters reach them; the Conveyance by Sea to Nagore from the Presidency is rapide and safe at this season, but the Conveyance from thence to the Presidency is I am informed by Mr. Rudleston scarce practicable; and I have very little reason to suppose that Duplicates and Triplicates which I have sent by the way of Nagore & Trangenbar get forward. - and there is too much reason to believe that many of our Southern Papals by land fall into the hands of the Enemy - perhaps the Rajahs go sagest, but there are cases in which it may not be convenient to trust that; for he has persons if so disposed, who can read as well as I can write, and if a Cypher is made use of, such letters may be lost by the way - I could wish two Packet Boats were established between Madras and Nagore armed: besides their utility in maintaining a Correspondence, they might serve as a Convoy to grain here: after -

From Col. Braithwaite concerning the Rajah of Tanjore

I have driven the enemy out of the Country for the present, and am most urgently pressing the Rajah to throw grain into the Forts, but what is sent in comes slowly, and is of an inferior quality - I mean as to Tanjore itself, for by my Reports from the Lesser Forts

Co

28. Fort St. George - January 1781 -

4th Forts none at all has been yet laid in, altho' I have projected this matter these three weeks. I could have done a great deal to the Southward with so active an Officer as Burrows at the head of a Detachment in the field, but Mr. Bajah cuts my capitations and my fortifications short, pleading poverty, he gives poor hopes of paying even the ordinary Establishment, he has nonea: Say, he never was moveable, Butchinay, and the Naiked govern his Conduct, - they are not friendly - I remain

Sir,

Your very obedient Servant

John Braithwaite.

Tanjore
4th Dec. 1780.

To the Honble Charles Smith Esqr
Govr. and Select Committee.

Honble Sir, and Sirs,

Altho' I have had the honor to address you by Duplicates and by Sea and Land Conveyances I have not been so fortunate as to know that any letter of mine has reached Madras. I have heard for certain of one Capsicouly having fallen into the Enemies hands, by which I acknowledged to Mr. Sullivan the receipt of the new Cypher, and acknowledged to the Commander in Chief the receipt of a letter from

29 Fort St. George — January — 1781.

4th from him, under date the 6th Inst. and do acquaint: do him with my having again detached Capt: Burrows with a hundred Chosen Sepoys from this Garrison with the two Guns and ten Companies of the Sibendies, which force was joined by a Company of Grenadier Sepoys at my request from Nagore — with these he attacked the enemy at Sheally and do completly routed them, taking two Guns two Coundors, a good deal of ammunition and many Prisoners among whom is a young man a German who acted as Surgeon and Commandant of Cavalry — The Enemies force consisted of five hundred horse of which very few were good — one thousand Foot with Firelocks, and many Polygars with Matchlocks and Pikes, too many of which latter were the Rajah's own Subjects — I shall so strengthen that part of the Country as to protect & hope the approaching Harvest and do keep the Inhabitants together, and do in their duty. I have likewise detached from hence Capt: Alcock with his Batt[n] and two six Coundors and I hope you will shortly hear of his rendering important Service. — which is all I wish to say of his expedition, by this Conveyance particularly as I hope in a few days to be write to you by a much better.

From Col: Braithwaite advising of the enemy's Camp at Sheally — raises a Troop of 50 Horse.

I have strengthened in every Respect the Rajah's several matter Forts about which

4th which the Polygars began to be troublesome, and I think they will never be able to effect any thing against any of them, In order to do all these necessary services, I have been obliged to encrease my strength, I have before had the honor to inform you of my intended encrease to the Sibendies, and addition of Cay, without which I could never have done what I have - besides which I have nearly compleated the Company of native artillery with very fine young fellows, and done more towards raising a Company of one hundred topays Inf: Janty - and as there is an absolute necessity for a few horse to prevent Straggling parties from burning the fine Villages of this Country, I have procured from the Rajah about 40 horses, and shall get some different Gen: thereon enough to make a troop of fifty, for which I have nearly raised and disciplined the Men, and this beginning, may perhaps be followed - all these things will I hope meet with your approbation, and I flatter myself that as I have nothing so much at heart as to promote the Rajahs best what is in fact for his Interest, provided his interest is united with ours, I trust that you will strengthen my

3/ Fort St. George January - 1781

to my hands, by assuring him of your confidence
in me, and that you expect from him such
exertion as I shall point out to him, his dis-
position is somewhat improved with my
encreasing strength, and an idea that I shall
go great length rather than have my hands
tied - I have the honor to inform you that
the 1st Batt.n by great assistance from Trichy
inopoly, is nearly compleat and arms are
now delivered to them, and they come on
fast. I have the honor to be with great

Respect,

Honble Sir & Sirs,

your faithful & obt. Servant

John Braithwaite.

Tanjore
22nd Dec. 1780 -

As my Detachments have a little cleared the
Country, I venture to send this, and shall
write tomorrow again to the Commander in chief.

To the Honble Charles Smith Esqr
Pres.t & Gov.r and the Select Committee of
Fort St. George -

Honble Sir & Sirs,

I had the honor to write you
lately, acknowledging the receipt of your Letter,
and a Cypher, which I shall be very careful to keep
in the most safe and secret manner. -
The Nabob's People here, notwithstand-
ing the Country has been kept in profound
Peace -

From Col. Nixon, the Nabob's People acquaint him they are unable to pay the Troops, which creates discontent among them - detaches Major Galway and Lieut.t Long who disloge the Enemy from a strong Post.

Fort S.t George - January 1781

4.th Peace, have often a[illegible]ed me, it produces so little, that they are totally incapable, of paying any troops regularly, or of clearing any arrears, which has created great discontent, and some mutinies, amongst their Sepoys, insomuch, that three Companies have at a time, left the Camp at Cuttapatore, to come to this Place, - but from the treatment, some others had met with from me, they thought it prudent to stop on the roads, a short distance off. - as a proof of what I mention I herewith enclose Extracts of two Persian Letters. Repeated applications have been made to me from many parts of the Country, for Troops, Stores, and Pay, for their Garisons, which it was impossible for me to comply with in any respect, particularly as I had received frequent Reports, of the Enemy's collecting their force, from all Parts, near to Carnaor, and as I had information, of their intention, to burn and destroy the whole Country, between Carnaor and this Place, on both sides of the River. I thought it my principal duty to reinforce the party in Coupy, with two Guns and fifty Men. - Ensign Long of the Company's Troops, and Major Galtway of the Nabob's Artillery, marched with those People, in the night of the 15.th Inst. and had orders to attack the Enemy without Loss -

4th days of time, and before the expected succours could join them - which was done with very good effect, having dislodged and drove the enemy from a strong Post, a walled village, & mud Fort, called Cuttapatore, upon the North side of the river, with about one third of the Force the Enemy had there collected; in the village was found a large Stock of Grain, the Quantity variously reported, together with 35 Stands of arms, the Enemy suffered some loss in Horses and otherwise - We had the good fortune not to lose a single man - from the Reports I received from Warriorpollam, I judg'd it absolutely necessary something should be done, to relieve it from the imminent danger, it appeared to be in. - I had Consulted with Col.o Braithwaite upon the Subject, and in order to enable him, to spare a Batn. of Sepoys, for a short time from Tanjore, I sent four Compleat Companies of Recruits, which had been raised here, for the 1st Batn. - Capt. Alcock accordingly marched out, with two Guns for its Relief. - a small quantity of ammunition, was also sent from hence, under an escort of one Company of our Sepoys, and the Manager sent orders, to collect some Grain in the Lal: gudy District, which was to be forwarded under escort of the whole force, when joined. - The quantity

From Col.o Nixon at Intelligence -

9

34. Fort S.t George - January 1781 -

4th I have since heard, was much smaller than was intended to be sent; indeed the Nabob's Manager here shews every disposition to oblige, and obey me, and very readily delivered the 1000 Stands of Arms, but I understand, he receives so many contradictory orders, from his Master the Ameer, that he is afraid to act decisively - I have the honor to enclose you, a Letter I received from the Reddy of Tonore, in answer to one I had written to him, demanding some assistance of Troops, which was more calculated to try him, than founded upon any real hopes of success - as I had heard, he has a Vacqueel with Hyder - and is busily employed in making up Tents, and sending him other assistance - his Letter, appears equivocal - which I submit to your Judgement -

I remain with Respect,
Honble Sir & Sirs,
Your most faithful
humble Servant
Eccles Nixon

Trichinopoly
23d Dec. 1780.

Extract from a Translate of a Persian Letter from Golam Mahommed - Killedar of Chanoor to Mahomed Aytebar Khan dated 15 Decr. 1780 -

Some Letters from Warriorpollam are arrived here, I herewith enclose them to you. We are in a most miserable situation, but our hope

35. Fort St. George - January 1781

4th hope is in God - The Colleries are daily making disturbances - by God's favor there will soon be a Change. I can neither write or Speak of the miserable manner of the Sepoys, who are almost starved. notwithstanding their present condition 150 of the Sepoys have marched out with the Commandant to attack the Enemy. - I wrote you two Letters some time ago, but have not yet had an answer to them or received the least assistance - The Communication between this Place and Trichinopoly is cut off and but with great difficulty any Letters can now pass. I am therefore at a loss how to act - The Commandant's Horse has been wounded. - I request you will shew us some favor in sending assistance and Provisions for we are in very great needs of help at this time - Yesterday we heard that the People at Palamcotah have been fighting with the Enemy. Meanundaheb, Jemadar, with some horse are there; he has written you a letter which I now enclose - The Colleries have surrounded the Fort of this Place and are firing into it in the night and burning some of the houses - it is absolutely necessary that you should send us immediate assistance; otherwise we must perish. - -

Translate of a Persian Letter from Mahomed Abdulla -

36 Fort St. George - January 1781 —

4th Abdulla, Subedar at Illiamoor, to Mahomed Ayteba Khan, dated 15th Dec. 1780. —

I have before acquainted you with the particulars of what has passed at Illiamoor respecting the mutinying of the Sepoys, who are starving for want of their pays - also of the trouble which have been occasioned by the Collories, and of the total desertion of the Inhabitants throughout this District - At that time I have nothing new to inform you of - The Sepoys after being two whole days without eating any thing, threw down their arms and declared they would go away. - I have done every thing in my power to pacify them, but words will not satisfy their hunger; - and now I by the Blessing of God some Provisions are immediately sent for the Sepoys, it will not be in my power to keep them here. - I can only compare my present situation to a Ship, which is violently tossed about by a Storm and upon the brink of perishing but thro' the favor of God is at length saved. For these four or five days past, a Sheick Emaum Modeen, with one or two hundred Sepoys, have been marching to Killipoolloor and Cunnoorah and fighting with the Enemy, Sidi Emaum, Subedar, has been

3/. Fort St. George - January - 1781 —

4th. been seized by his own Company and is now Prisoner with them at Trimulwaree, and 9 some other People are Prisoners in the Cottah, The Garrison of Chanoor are half dead tho' hunger and have not strength to move from one place to another - just now a Cadjan Letter arrived from Mahomed Ensaff, to Sheick Emaum Nadeem Commandant, mentioning, you had written him a letter that it was your intention to send assistance to him - upon which the Sepays rejoiced very much, and are looking out very earnestly expecting, to see it arrive. -

5th. Received the following Letter from the Company's Standing Council -

To the Honble Charles Smith Esqr
Pres.t and Gov.r &c &c &c of
Fort St. George -

Sir,

I have considered the Question you put to me this Morning, whether having already drawn bills on the Company to the amount of 200,000, and not knowing whether the other Presidencies have not also drawn, you can with safety to yourselves and the Public at present venture to draw for a further sum.

I have also perused the act of 19th Geo. 3 Ch. 61. which prohibits the Company's accepting Bills to the amount of more than 300,000 without permission from the

Fort St. George - January 1781 —

5/7 the Treasury. This prohibition was to endure so long as the act continued in force, that is from 5th April 1779 to 5th April 1780, after which it was provided that nothing in the act should affect the rights of the Company, which were to remain on the same footing as if the act had never been passed. As therefore the Company before that act were not limitted in their acceptation of bills drawn on them by their Presidencies in India, they are not at present limitted unless this act has been renewed; and though this should be the case, if the necessities of Government here were very urgent, I conceive that no danger can accrue to them or the Public by drawing for a further Sum, for as both the Treasury and the Company must have the safety and prosperity of that Coast much at heart there can be little doubt that the Treasury will consent to the Payment of Bills for money advanced for the security of it, and still less that the Company obtaining that sanction will duly accept them. — I have the Honor to be —

From W.B. Sullivan provided that nothing in the act should affect the rights of the Company, which were to remain on the same footing as if the act had never been passed. As therefore the Company before that act were not limitted in their acceptation of bills drawn on them by their Presidencies in India, they are not at present limitted unless this act has been renewed; and though this should be the case, if the necessities of Government here were very urgent, I conceive that no danger can accrue to them or the Public by drawing for a further Sum, for as both the Treasury and the Company must have the safety and prosperity of that Coast much at heart there can be little doubt that the Treasury will consent to the Payment of Bills for money advanced for the security of it, and still less that the Company obtaining that sanction will duly accept them. — I have the Honor to be —

with his opinion concerning the drawing for a further Sum upon the Company —

here

Sir, Your most obedt. Hble Servant

Fort St. George
5th Janry. 1781

Benj. Sullivan. —

wrote the following Letters —

below

Mr. Thomas Welsh
Paymaster to the Army —

Sir. The Board the President and Select —

39. Fort St. George - January 5th 1781.

5th
To Mr Welch concerng. the Dy. Judge advocate

Select Committee, have pleased to resolve that the Deputy Judge advocate with the army, shall receive Captains Pay and Batta agreeably to the Military Regulations.

I am Sir

Your most obt Servant

Fort St. George
5th Janry 1781.

P.J. Sullivan
Secy.

To Capt. Jeffery.

Sir,

We have thought proper to resolve that you should proceed on the Coast Sloop to the Southward, and have accordingly put that Vessel under your orders. You will first proceed to Cuddalore, where you will deliver to the Chief & Council, the Money which will be sent aboard directed to them; and thence, you will make the best of your way to Nagore; where we are in expectation, Capt. Scott will be ready to embark with the Packet he has in charge from the Honble the Court of Directors. It is our positive desire that no time may be lost, by any unnecessary detention - but, that you return to the Presidency, with all the expedition in your power.

To Capt. Jeffery
w.t Instructions.

We are

Sir, Your most obt Servants

Fort St. George
5th Janry 1781

Cha. Smith &c.
Select Committee

P.S. Should you be informed by the Chief and Council at Cuddalore, that Capt. Scott has left Nagore

12. Fort St. George - January 1781.

To Lieut. Col. Nixon,
Commanding at
Trichinopoly.

Sir,

To Col. Nixon approving the measures taken by him.

We have received your Letter of the 25th. Ult. We entirely approve of the measures pursued by you to distress the Enemy in the Districts dependant upon Trichinopoly, - as well as of those adopted by you in concert with Col. Braithwaite for the Relief of Warriore Coilam.

We are,
Sir,
Your most Obt. Servants
Chas. Smith &c.
Select Comm.

Fort St. George
5th. January 1781.

To Col. Braithwaite Commanding at
Tanjore.

Sir,

To Col. Braithwaite approving his Conduct.

We have received your Letters of the 29th. Nov. & 22d. Dec. and do entirely approve of the steps you have taken towards procuring your strength in the Tanjore Country. Our last orders, with which you was transmitted a Copy of a Letter we had written to the Rajah, will fully convey to you our Sentiments of the Line, we think it necessary you should pursue.

We are,
Sir,
Your most Obt. Servants
Chas. Smith &c.
Select Comm.

Fort St. George
5th. Janry. 1781.

Received 5th

43 Fort St. George January 1781

16th received the following Letter

To the Honble Charles Smith Esqr

Chief & Govr & c. Members of the Select Committee

at Fort St. George

Honble Sir & Gentlemen,

Three Packets which have been forwarded to me from Tellicherry, and are addrd to you, I understand, by the admiral - are now dispatched to the Commanding Officer at Calamcotah, who is requested to convey them to you with the all possible expedition.

Some particulars concerning the Naval and Military Force at the Mauritius and other matters that may perhaps affect our Trade in India, having been communicated to me by a Portuguese who resided on that Island from the 26th June to the end of August last and having since come to Ceylon, arrived here from thence this Morning on his way to Cochin, I judge it may not be unnecessary to communicate the same to your Honr & Cs and accordingly herewith enclose a Copy of the Paper in which that Intelligence is contained

From the Chief at Anjengo, forwards Ext. St. from Sir Edr Hughes - with Intelligence concern the French force at the Mauritius -

By private advices just received from Bombay, I am informed that Genl Goddard had safely effected his March from Surat to Bassein and commenced the siege of the last mentioned place about the

12. Fort St. George - January 1781.

5th

To Lieut. Col. Nixon,

Commanding at

Trichinopoly -

Sir,

To Col. Nixon approving the Measures taken by him. &

We have received your Letter of the 25th Ult. We entirely approve of the measures pursued by you to distress the Enemy in the Districts dependant upon Trichinopoly, - as well as of those adopted by you in concert with Col. Braithwaite for the Relief of Warriore Cam -

We are,

Sir,

Your most Obt Servants

Chas Smith &c

Select Comm -

Fort St. George

5th Jany 1781 -

To Col. Braithwaite Commanding at

Tanjore -

Sir,

To Col. Braithwaite approving his Conduct.

We have received your Letters of the 29th Nov. & 22d Dec. and do entirely approve of the steps you have taken towards procuring your strength in the Tanjore Country, - Our last orders, with which we transmitted a Copy of a Letter we had written to the Rajah, will fully convey to you our Sentiments of the Line, we think it necessary you should pursue;

We are,

Sir,

Your most Obt Servants

Chas Smith &c

Select Comm

Fort St. George

5th Jany. 1781

Received 5th

43. Fort St. George January 1781

6th received the following Letter

To the Honble Charles Smith Esqr

Chief & Gov.r & Mr. Members of the Select Committee

at Fort St. George

Honble Sir & Gentlemen,

Three Packets which have been

forwarded to me from Tellicherry and are addrs.d

to you, I understand, by the Admiral are now

dispatched to the Commanding Officer at Calam:

cotah, who is requested to convey them to

you with all possible expedition.

Some particulars concerning

the Naval and Military Force at the Mauritius

and other matters that may perhaps affect

our Trade in India, having been communicated

to me by a Portuguese who resided on that

Island from the 26th June to the end of August

last and having since come to Ceylon, arrived

here from thence this Morning on his way to

Cochin, I judge it may not be unnecessary to

communicate the same to your Honor &c.a and

accordingly herewith enclose a Copy of the

Paper in which that Intelligence is contain.d

By private advices just received

from Bombay, I am informed that Genl.

Goddard had safely effected his March

from Surat to Bajseew and commenced

the siege of the last mentioned place about

the

from the Siege at Anjengo, forwards Each St from Sir E.d Hughes — with Intell.ce concern.g the French force at the Mauritius —

44. Fort St. George. January 1781

6th the middle of last Month.

I am with the greatest respect,
Honble Sir, & Gentlemen,
Your most obt Hble Servant
Jas Morley

Anjengo
the 10th Dec. 1780

A Portugueze, named Senhor Joseph Antonio De Seggier, arriving at Anjengo, from Columbo, the 11th Dec. 1780. on his way to Cochin communicated the following Intelligence to Mr. Morley, the Resident. viz

That the Informant embarked at Cochin, as a Passenger, on board a Portuguese Ship called the St. Maria Mayor, commanded by and belonging to Senhor Antonio De Silva Lisboa, which sailed from thence the 10th of May last bound for Europe. - but not being able to double the Cape of Good Hope, owing to the lateness of the season, bore away for Mauritius, where she arrived the 26th of June, - intending to sail again for Europe in the Little Monsoon, in company with the Imperial Ship, commanded by Mr. Bolts, (which was laying there when she reached that Island) and another Ship called the Tritan, which that Gentleman had purchased & there & loaded for Europe; - That the Informant left the St. Maria Mayor, on her arrival

there

at

6th. at Mauritius, and sailed from thence, as a Passenger, the 31st. August, or 1st. Sept.r in a small Ship called the Valyram (pierced for 12 Guns but mounting only 10) commanded by Mons.r Botte (a Swede) as first Captain and Mons.r Colomb, (a Frenchman) as second Captain, which Ship hoisted Imperial Colours, by permission from Mr. Bolts, although certainly belonged to, as the Informant alledges, to the French. — That this Ship proceeded to Columbo, where she arrived the 22nd. October, and having taken in a loading of Wine, Arrack, and Sugar at that place, sailed from thence the 6th. Nov.r pretending to be bound for Goa, but the Informant has not a doubt especially as she was in a leaky condition, that She returned directly to Mauritius. — During his stay at Mauritius, the Informant says, he saw a Ship of the line, of 74 Guns and another of 60 Guns arrive there from France the latter end of June, or beginning of July, with a Naval Officer of high rank, who was appointed Successor to the late Commander in Chief of the French Fleet in India. — That besides the two Ships just mentioned, there were laying at Mauritius four Men of war of 60 Guns, 11 Frigates and about 15 Merchant Ships & Vessels. — That the Informant, both

from

16 Fort S.t George January 1781—

6th Saw what he saw and learned there—
from good authority, could confidently
declare the Land Forces at that Place—
consisted of Eight Thousand (8000) Regu:
lar Troops in the Kings Pay and about
four Thousand Militia, composed of the
white natives of the Islands.— That while
he resided at Mauritius, a French Gen:
tleman there named Mons.r D'Elizat, fitted
out a Ship called the Solamon, of 32 Guns,
commanded by Mons.r De Billow, and a
Brigantine of 22 Guns, whose name and
that of her Commander he has forgot;
That they sailed from Mauritius on the
15th August, manned chiefly with Coffres,
having but few Europeans on board, and
it was there reported there, they were des:
tined for the Streights of Malacca, but he
cannot entertain the smallest doubt that
they came to this Coast and were the iden:
tical Cruizers which took the Bombay—
Merchant, as no other Ships or Vessels had sailed
from Mauritius during the whole time he
was there. The Informant further adds it was
generally said at Mauritius that they were
waiting for orders from Europe how to em:
play their Fleet. &c.

True Copy—

Jas Morley Jr—

To

47. Fort St. George 9 January 1781

To John Whitehill Esqr
6th
Chief & Govr and Council at
Fort St. George &a

Sir, & Gentlemen,

By my Departure from Madras I left the Bearer, which by the order of the Court of Directors signifide to me in England you were pleased to assign for my reception now there, in the charge of my Attorneys and in every Room of it above Stairs were lodged Valuables my Property, and the Rooms below were occupied either as Offices to the Publick Officers of the Squadron, in which were lodged their Desks containing their publick papers and Accounts, or filled with my Wines and other my Effects; In this condition I neither meant, nor did I understand that you intended, to convert the House so assigned me by you, into an abode for the reception of Strangers coming into your Garrison, and yet my Attorney avers me under date the 29th of last Month, that a Party of it was ordered to be cleaned for the use of Officers hourly expected to arrive from Bengal, whose Servants may, and most probably will, without the Knowledge of their Masters, ransack every Room in the House both above and below.

Under &a

Valuables

From Sir E. Hughes request his house may not be occupied by any body.

use

No. 2. Fort St. George, January 5th 1781.

6th Under these circumstances, Sir and Gentlemen, I apply to you to request Miss Rooney, ordered home by the Court of Directors, may be left in the Charge of my Attorney, in my absence, or if you are not pleased to grant that, you advise me of it by a Letter, that I may order a House to be hired for the reception and security of the Public Papers & Accounts of the Squadron, and my own Property. I am with great regard,

Sir & Gentlemen,

Your most obedient
humble Servant
Edwd Boughton

Superb off Anjango
the 2nd Nov. 1780

To John Whitehill Esqr Chief Supr
and Select Committee of
Fort St George

Sir & Gentlemen,

I have received your several
Letters of the 21st 24th and both two of the
29th of last Month, with a Letter addressed
to me by the Gov. Genl and Council of
Bengal, - The Company's Ships Bombay
and Contractor joined me at Point de Gaul
where I was under the necessity of anchoring
some days to refit the Carlton Frigate and
Work Store Ships, and I have taken them
under my orders according to

Sep. Fort St. George January 6th 1781

From Sir E. Hughes
Continues to Contractor
joins him &c.

Permit me to assure you I sincerely part
take with you, in the satisfaction you feel
from the certainty of a timely reinforcement
from Bengal, and of a Peace with the
Marattas; and I make no doubt you will
soon be in a Condition to drive the Invad-
ers out of the Carnatic, and to restore the
affairs of the Company, and the dominions of our Ally Ikri Boghnesy to that State of Peace and Security so very essential to the Prosperity of both, —

I am with great regard,
Sir & Gentlemen,
Your most obdt —
humble Servant —
Edwd Hughes

Superb, at Sea
the 12. Nov.r 1780

To John Whitehill Esqr. President and the Governor
and Select Committee of
Fort St. George &c.

From Sir Edward Hughes
arrival at Tellicherry —
&c. Sartine &c. enclosed
copy of correspondence with
the Gentlemen at Tellicherry,
which it stands not be
named —

Sir and Gentlemen,

My last addressed to you,
was dated the 20th Nov.r on answer to your letters
of the 21st. 24th. and 29th of October.
I arrived in this Road the 28th of
last Month with his Majesty's Ships as Vs
Margin, the Sartine having unfortunately been
run on shore, and lost in Callicut Road in an
attack made on three of Hyder Ally's Ships lying
there

50. Fort St. George January 1701 — —

Eagle — York Store Ship

6th there, one of which mounting 26 Gunn was taken, and brought off by the Boats of the Ships, and the other drove on Shore. —

The accompanying Inclosures will enable you to form a clear Judgement of the state of the Garrison, and Inhabitants of Tellicherry, and I have no doubt you will be of opinion with me, that it ought not to be evacuated under the present situation of the Place, and of the Company's Affairs, and that you will hold Major Lodgeare blame-less in his resolution of Continuing to defend it at my Request, even altho' he had Your orders to return to the Coast.

2. As every assistance is furnished by Major Lodgeare, and the Chief and Factors think necessary for the defence of this place, I shall proceed with the Aguada towards Bombay, touching at Mangalore to see if any thing effectual can be done against Ryder's Vessels in that Port.

3. As the Chief and Factors, as well as Major Lodgeare, earnestly solicited that some Ships might be left in the Road to keep the Port open for Supplies of Provisions until a reinforcement arrives, I have directed the Captains of the Company's Ships, Commander and Contractor to remain here for that Purpose —

51 Fort St. George January 5th 1781 - - - -

6th purpose, and hope it will meet your approba-
tion. - I am with great Regard,

Sir, & Gentlemen,

Your most obt. Hble Servant

Edwd. de Hughes

Superb, in Tellicherry Road
the 4th Decr. 1780.

To Sir Edwards Hughes, Knight of the most Honble Order
of the Bath, Rear Admiral of the Reds, and Com-
mander in Chief of his Majesty's Ships in the
East Indies.

Sir,

We were honored with your letter
of the 26th Inst., and you may depend on our
exerting ourselves in giving the Squadron
under your Command every Supply and
Assistance that our present situation will
afford.

The Honble the Select Committee of
Bombay were pleased to write us under the
23rd Sept. That the War in which they are
engaged with the Marattas requiring the
utmost exertion of that Presidency, & not
permitting them to divert their resources
to any other object, they were not able to
send us any further assistance after the
Dispatch of the Royal Charlotte, and there-
fore unless the Enemy should withdraw
from the attack, or the Government of Ma-
dras undertake to furnish the necessary
Supplies

52. Fort St. George January 8th 1781 — —

6th Supplies of Men and Stores for our defence, they should be under an absolute necessity of abandoning that Place.

They further informed us that they had Then wrote fully to the Select Committee at Madras on the Subject, and enclosed us Copy of their Letter; also That the Select Committee at Madras had recommended to them, That the Malabar Powers should be excited to raise Commotions, and to revolt against Hyder's Government, That it would be a good measure should we find the Settlement was to be maintained, otherwise it would be only needlessly exposing the Nairs to his Resentment, and that They now were to act in this point according to the answer from the Select Committee at Madras.

In consequence of the above orders from the Select Committee of Bombay, we addressed a Letter to the Select Committee at Madras under the 9th Instt. giving them an Account of the State of the Malabar Country from the time Hyder Ally conquered it, till the present period, with our sentiments of the practicability of exciting a revolt among the Nairs, and their inclinations to cooperate should such a measure be adopted.

Copy —

53 Fort St. George January 5th 1781

6th Copy of our Letter accompanies this for your observation.

We have yet received no answer to the above Letter from the Select Committee at Madras, but by your Squadron have received one under the 13th Inst. to which we beg leave to refer you;

In compliance therefore with the order of the Select Committee of Bombay, to communicate to you the situation of our affairs on your arrival, we shall proceed to lay the same before you.

We are, Sir, to inform you that altho' we are confined within the limits of the Districts of this Settlement, and have been from the first Commencement of hostilities on the part of the Nairs subject to Hyder, and since by Hyder's Troops under the Command of an Officer named Sadeo Caun, that they have never yet been able to make any material impression on our lines, and as the Presidency of Bombay have afforded us, or can at this present period afford us, the support of a Batt.n or two of Sepoys with a proportion of Europeans, that we should have been enabled to have acted offensively against the Enemy, and to have obliged them to retire, We have little doubt also, that had the state of affairs

on

54 Fort St. George - January 1781 -

6th on this Coast admitted of such support, that it would have been productive of those Events, so much wished for, by the Presidency of Madras, as several of the Malabar Powers are at this period ripe for a revolt against Hyder's Government, and only wait for the moment when they shall find us in a situation to support them, or rather indeed to support ourselves in the maintenance of this Settlement.

You, Sir, from the Papers now before you, will perceive that the two Presidencies, however much they wish to maintain and support this Settlement, doubt the practicability of it, engaged as they both are in a war with the Marattas, and Hyder Ally, and therefore direct that if driven to the lamentable necessity, for such indeed we must term it, all circumstances considered, to abandon the place to the Enemy.

Your knowledge, Sir, for the Interest of the Company, from which the national is no ways distinct has led our Superiors to direct we should consult and advise with you in our present Situation, and as your knowledge of the present designs and intentions both of the Supreme Council at Bengal and the Presidency of Madras

55. Fort St. George - January 5th 1781

6th. Madras as to their operations and views in the prosecution of the present war with Hyder Ally, and the Marattas, renders you a far better Judge than we can be, in what degree the Interest and Honor of the Compa: may be affected by abandoning this Settlement at this Period. We hope to be favored with your advice and opinion on this important Subject.

We think it incumbent upon us, to make known to you that the East India Company have been in possession of this Settlement since the year 1708, and have now to the number of 30,000 Inhabitants living under their protection all of whom as well as those Malabar Powers who have afforded us support in our present troubles, and who have proved themselves staunch in the Interest of the Company, and have even rejected all overtures made them by Hyder, look up to the Company for protection, and on whose ruin must be compleat, if ever this Settlement falls under Hyder's Government, although it is our most earnest desire to put in execution the wishes of the Presidency of Bombay in respect to this Settlement as far as we can judge of them, yet we should feel the most sensible concern if

6th if by any Change in the present System of Affairs of which we are unacquainted, the defence and protection of this Settlement might be considered of importance which does consequently make it our desirous of obtaining your advice and opinion on the Subject.

After this Statement of our situation, it is necessary to say something as to the present strength of the Enemy now acting against us, that you Sir, may be able to form a better Judgement which measures are necessary to be taken, should you advise and recommend the Settlement being maintained until the pleasure of the different Presidencies can be known, or until the your Squadron returns to Madras, should it their be necessary to give it up. The troops under Sader Cawn, (Hyder Ally's Officer) from the best information we can obtain consists now only of about 3000 Sepoys and about 30 pieces of Cannon. The Nairs, Moplas, & Tivas with him are supposed to be about 6000 Men, but we have occasion to believe that since your attack upon Calicut and appearance here, that he has drawn off about 2000. Mens. Major Coltgrave who is in Command of our Troops, and who has had a long experience of the Enemy's condition and strength is well convinced

Cannon

57. Fort St. George. January 8th 1781

6th convinced that they must fly before us the moment we can act upon the defensive, and would consider himself in an ample situation so to do, had he an addition to his present Strength of 10000 Sepoys or half the number of European Troops. If therefore, Sir, you should be of opinion, that it is political & advisable, engaged as the Company at present are in a war with Hyder, to oblige his Troops to retire from before this place, you will now be able to judge what assistance it would be necessary to afford from His Majesty's Squadron now under your Command. Major Scot proposes of opinion the service would be very soon effected and attended with very favorable consequences we could wish or expect from it. As to supplies of Stores we shall be able to hold out for some Months to come, after receiving the Powder you have on board the Squadron, and as to respect to the Articles of Rice as we hope to collect from the Ships under your Convoy between 2, & 3,000 Bags we shall in this particular also be able to supply your Garrison until some of the Bengal Ships may appear. We have the honor to be. Sir

Your most obedient most humble Servants

Rich.d Bourchier
Sam.l Stedman
M. Smith. e

Pondicherry
28th Nov.r 1780.

(signed)

A true Copy
Arth.r Cuthbert
Secretary

No

58. Fort St. George - January 5th 1781.

To Richard Church Esqr. Chief and Council of Tellicherry.

Gentlemen,

I have received your Letter of the 28th. of this Month, in which after your promised assistance of a supply of every thing in your care afford to his Majesty's Squadron under my Command, you are pleased to inform me, That the Select Committee of Bombay, to which you are subordinate, had been pleased to write you under date the 23d Sept.r last "That the war "in which they were engaged with the Marat- "tas requiring the utmost exertion of that "Presidency, and not permitting them to di- "vert their resources to any other object, they "were not able to send any further assistance "after the Dispatches of the Ships Royal Char- "lotte, and therefore unless the Enemy should "withdraw from the attack, as the Govern- "ment of Madras undertake to furnish the "necessary supplies of Men, and Stores for "your defence, they should be under the ab- "solute necessity of abandoning the Place" made in the 3d. Paragraph of your said Letter, You are pleased to inform me of your further instructions from your Presidency of Bombay under the same date, signifying that the Presidency of Madras had recommended it as

59 Fort St. George January 5th 1781

6th as an eligible measure to excite them Malabars to raise commotions, and revolt against Hyder's Government if you found the Settlement in a Condition to be defended, otherwise it would be only unnecessarily exposing the Natives to his resentment, and desired therefore you were to act in that point according to the answer from the Select Committee of Madras, In your 11th Paragraph you are pleased to inform me, that you had written to the Presidency of Madras giving them a State of the Malabar Country from the time Hyder Ally conquered it, to the present period, with your sentiments of the practicability of exciting a revolt among the Nairs, and their inclinations to cooperate with you, to which you have as yet received no answer; and desire you shou proceed in compliance, as you say, with the orders of the Select Committee of Bombay, to communicate to me the State of your affairs on my arrival here, and to consult and advise with me under that Situation, as my knowledge of the designs and intentions of the Supreme Council at Bengal, and the Presidency of Madras, as to their operations, and success in the prosecution of the present war with

Hyder

to Fort St. George. January 1781.

6th Hyder Ally, and the Morattas, render me a far better judge than you can be, in what degree the Interest and Honor of the Company may be affected by abandoning your Settlement at this Period, and that you hope to be favored with my Advice and Opinion on the important occasion.

In the subsequent Paragraphs you have stated with a due sense of honor, and humanity, the situation of 30,000 Inhabitants living under the Company's Protection in your Settlement, all of whom, as well as those Malabar Powers who have afforded you support in your present trouble, and who have preserved themselves staunch in the Interest of the Company, and have even rejected all overtures made to them by Hyder Ally, look up to the Company for Protection, and whose ruin must be complete; if ever you fall into Hyder's hands.

You then proceed to give me a Statement of the force of the Enemy employed against you, and of the means which you think would be sufficient to enable you to act not only defensively, but offensively against Hyder Ally and the Naires.

Having

61. Fort St. George 9 January 1781

6th

Having deliberately considered every matter contained in your Letter, as well as the Instructions you have received from the Presidency of Bombay, as the Letter of the 13th of last Month from the Presidency of Fort St. George, and also the state and condition of the Settlement, and its Inhabitants as you have represented it, and having also maturely weighed the great difference which has arisen in the state of the Company's affairs both as to war, and Politics, since the date of your last Instructions from Bombay, and the Letter from Fort St. George. I am clearly of opinion that you ought not to evacuate the Settlement until you have further Orders from Bombay and to endeavour to hold it out against the Enemy until such further orders arrive, I will order you a supply of such a proportion of Ammunition, Military Stores & Provisions as can be spared from the Squadron under my Command, and immediately dispatch Letters to the Presidencies of Bombay and Fort St. George to urge them to furnish you with ample succours, and if you stand in need of Money for immediate Service, I will direct a Supply to be furnished you, for your bills on the Presidency of Bombay. I am,

Gentlemen, your most obt. Hble Servant

The Admiral &c

To

Copy

Capt. Tailbot

Lieut. Fitz

Inspection Folio 1780

Secy. 16th Oct. 1780

62. Port St. George January 5th 1781

To Sir Edward Hughes Knight of the Bath,
Rear Admiral of the Red and Commander
in Chief of His Majesty's Ships in the
East Indies.

Sir,

By the orders from the Select Committee of Fort St George, which I had the honor of receiving by your hands, I am directed to return to that Presidency with the Troops under my Command with the utmost expedition, and to embark in such manner as you should judge most expedient.

But on your representing the situation of Affairs at Madras as altered since the time these orders were issued, and that it would be prejudicial to the Company's Interests to return at this Juncture with the Troops, and give up their Settlement of Tellicherry, I hesitated not a moment to agree to remain, provided I was furnished with the means of defending the Settlement, and called a Council of the Senior Officer under my Command, as to the number of Troops &c &c requisite for the defence of the Place against the present Enemy, till a reinforcement arrived from Bombay, which you engaged should be sent immediately on your arrival there, and likewise as to the Advantages to be expected

62. Fort St. George January 1781

6th expected by making a general Assault on all
the Enemy's works with the Troops you agreed
to land for that Purpose. Our unanimous opi-
nion on both these heads I made the honor of
laying before you the 29th last, and did expect
to receive your determination.

As it is necessary it should be determin-
without loss of time, whether the Settlement is
to be given up, or not, that measures may be
taken accordingly, I beg leave to name the last,
and only Conditions, on which I can undertake
to defend this Settlement, Viz. your consenting for
the use of the Garrison Eight, 12 Pounder Guns,
one thousand Barrels of Powder, with a rein-
forcement of 1150 Europeans, and to leave a
sufficient number of Ships in the road to keep
the Dutch open, and likewise to land as much
rice as the President, and Factors have applied
for, as necessary for the Support of the In-
habitants, & the Garrison. On these condi-
tions solely I engage to maintain the Place
'till a reinforcement arrives from Bombay
agreeable to the time you engaged on which
I rely. And as it is a matter of serious con-
sequences to me, I hope you will not be sur-
prised at my requiring to have it under
your hands, that you recommended it to me,
to remain here with the Troops, that I may
be

64 Fort St. George January 5th 1781 --

6th Be indemnified in not complying with the orders of my Superiors. If it is not in your power to comply with the above terms, I beg you will point out to me the manner in which you want the embarkation of the Troops shall be to take place, that I may be prepared. The difficulties, and dangers, attending it I will be receiving your Answer inform you of.

Before the Arrival of the Squadron the Settlement was reduced to the greatest distress for want of Provisions, and the Inhabitants, and Auxiliary Nairs, despairing of the Arrival of a reinforcement, with the hopes of which we were obliged to buoy them up, were ready to hearken to any terms the Enemy should offer. If they are disappointed in their expectations now, they will most assuredly agree to terms from the Enemy too late, as they report Hyder Ally means to send down a Strong Army against this Place. In case of such a calamity, the Company's Troops would fall an instant sacrifice. The taking of all the Enemy's Redoubts with the Troops you agreed to land, from the Squadron, would be of no lasting advantage to the safety of the Settlement, as we have not Troops to

Maintain

65 Fort St. George 5th January 1781

6th maintain them, or to keep open the Communication, besides there is a great probability more men would be lost in the Storming these leadenhalls, than twice the number which I have required as necessary for the defence of the Settlement

I am with the greatest respect,
Sir Your most obt & most Hble Servant
John Cotgrave

Pellicherry
2nd Dec. 1780. A true Copy
Arth. Cuthbert
Secretary

Major John Cotgrave,
Sir,

I have just now been favored with your letter, of this day's date in which you are pleased to inform me of the orders you have received from the President & Select Committee of Fort St. George to return to that Presidency with the Troops under your command, but that on my representing the Situation of Affairs at Madras was altered since the time these orders were issued, and that it would be prejudicial to the Company's Interest to return at this time with the Troops and de give up their Settlement of Pellicherry, you hesitated not a moment to agree to remain provided you was furnished with the means of defending the Settlement, and that you had called a Council of the Senior Officers under your command (to deliberate as I suppose) as to the number of Troops and Stores &c. requisite for the defence of the Place against

the

66. Fort St. George January 1781

6th the present Enemy till a reinforcement arrived from Bombay, which (you say) I engaged should be sent immediately on my arrival there. In answer to thus much of your letter, I think it necessary to inform you that I do not mean to controvert the orders of the Secret Committee of Fort St. George to you regarding the troops under your Command, but the Chief and Factors of this Settlement having written a letter to me under date the 28th of last Month, and which I believe you had seen and approved, stating every circumstance of the present Situation of the Settlement as to defence, Troops, Stores, Provisions, and its Inhabitants, and having at the same time in very earnest terms asked my opinion whether in the situation as represented, the Settlement ought to be evacuated or not, and the Inhabitants who have so long and so gallantly assisted in its defence, left to the mercy of the Enemy; I gave it in a Letter of the 29th addressed to the Chief and Factors of the Settlement, under my hand, that for reasons therein set forth and to which I now refer you, I was clearly of opinion they ought not to evacuate the Settlement untile they had further orders from Bombay, and to enable them to hold it out against the Enemy untile such further orders arrived, I

offered

Fort St. George January 5th 1758

6th offered a supply of such a proportion of ammunitions, Military Stores, and Provisions, as could be spared from the Squadron under my Command, and immediately to dispatch Letters to the Presidencies of Bombay, and Fort St. George to urge them to furnish the Settlement with ample succours. — What I then wrote to the Chief & Factors I believed would have been communicated to you as the Military Commandant, and that you and they would have mutually deliberated on and answered my letter of the 29th of last month; if that has not been the case, you have now before you my opinion, but I do not engage (as you are pleased to say) that a reinforcement shall be sent to Pellicherry immediately on my arrival at Bombay, but that I will urge it, and as things are circumstanced I have no doubt of success.

The resolutions of the Council of War, which you have held on the 28th came to my hands late on the 29th of last Month. — The Paper contained the Resolutions of Officers on a Service that I do not pretend to judge of, and could admit of no consistent answer from me, and I therefore considered it as a Paper of information only.

You are pleased to say that as it is necessary it should be determined without Loss

68. Fort St. George January 5th 1781

6th Loss of time whether the Settlement is to be given up or not, you beg leave to name the Lowest & only Conditions on which you can undertake to defend it, viz. My landing for the use of the Garrison eight 12 Pounder Guns, 1000 ~ Barrels of Powder, with a reinforcement of 150 Europeans, and to leave a sufficient number of Ships in the road to keep the Port open, and likewise to land as much Rice as the Resident and Factors have applied for as necessary for the Support of the Inhabitants and the Garrison, and you proceed to say, on these Conditions only you engage to maintain the Place till a reinforcement arrives from Bombay agreeable to what time I engaged, and on which you rely; I shall pass over the manner in which you desire to capitulate with me for defending a Garrison which is under your immediate Command and with which I have no more immediate connection than with the other Garrisons & Settlements of the India Company, that may for any thing I know, stand as fully as much in need of my Countenance and Assistance, but I agree with you entirely that it is absolutely necessary it should be determined without loss of time whether the Settlement is to be given up or not, especially as the Service to which his Majesty's

69 Fort St. George January 1781

6th Majesty's Squadron under my Command is destined, makes it necessary for me to leave this Roade soon; I shall next proceede to inform you what is, and de can be done, respecting your Requisitions — The 8 Twelve Pounder Guns you demande may be had from the Ship Royal Charlotte now in this Roade, She having some of the Company's Guns of that denemision on board, The 1000 Barrils of Powder I will order to be landed, a supply of Rice equal to 2 Months oeconomical Expence of the Garison and Inhabitants is now landing, & the Company's Ships Bombaime and Contractor together with the two armed Smacks & Royal Charlotte Transport shall be left to keep the Port open, and I will furnish 100 Marines with their officers from the Squadron already much reduced in its Complement of Men by Death and Sickness, and that number is the utmost that can possibly be spared from the Service

I have already said I will not convert the Orders you have received from the Select Committee of Fort St. George, but I am of Opinion when all Circumstances are considered by the Select Committee, they will be more ready to applaude, than censure, your deviation from their Orders,

under

70. Fort St. George January 1781

6th under the present situation of the Company's Affairs, and of this Settlement.

I have only to add to this and my former Letters to the Chief and Factors of the Settlement which I have desired them to communicate to you, that I wish you and them to come to a mutual and speedy resolution whether the place is to be deserted or not, and that you will, under your hands, signify your intentions to me as soon as possible, for I cannot think it fair or equitable that one part of the Garrison should be embarked and the remainder left to the mercy of the Enemy - I am,

Sir

Your most obt. Hble Servant

(Signed) The Admiral -

Superscription Tellicherry 2nd Decr 1780.

A true Copy

Arth: Cuthbert

Secretary

To Sir Edward Hughes, Knight of the most Honble Order of the Bath, Rear Admiral of the Blue, and Commander in Chief of his Majesty's Ships in the East Indies. &c

Sir

Major Colpoys has communicated to us your Letter of this Date, and having considered the matter jointly with him, We are unanimously of opinion this Settlement should be maintained while the

further

7. Fort St. George January 5 1781

6th further pleasure of the Select Committee of Bombay is known.

We have the highest sense of the Zeal you have shewn for the Interest of the Company in the assistance you have affordede to this Settlement.

As you was pleasede to offer us Money for Bills on the Honble the Governor and Councie of Bombay, We shall be obligede to you for the Sum of 80,000 Bombay Rupees for the Expence of the Settlement, which we hope will be sufficient till a further Supply can be receivede from Bombay.

We request the Cattamar Boats for Bombay and de Anjango may be detainede till to morrow night for our Dispatches.

We have the Honor to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient and most humble Servants
Rich.d Church,
Sam.l Stedman,
M. Firthe.

Pollicherry
3rd Dec.r 1780.

A true Copy
Ar.th Cuthbert
Secretary

To Sir Edward Hughes, Knight of the most Honble Order of the Bath, Rear Admiral of the Red, and Commander in Chief of His Majestys Ships in the East Indies.

Sir,

I have had the honor to receive Your

72. Fort St. George January 1781

6th Your Letter of this date and do have communicated it to the Resident & Factors, Who entirely concur in opinion with me that this Settlement ought to be maintained. We are all highly sensible of the Zeal you have shewn for the Interest of the Company, and do saw fully satisfied with the assistance you propose giving me for the defence of this Settlement, and do hope to be able to preserve it 'till the further pleasure of the Select Committee of Bombay is known.

The Magazine will be ready to receive the 1,000 Barrels of Gun Powder to morrow Morning, and care shall be taken to accommodate the 100 Europeans with their Officers whenever you chuse to land them.

I have the Honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient and most humble Servant

Tho.s Coltgrave.

Tellichery
3.rd Dec.r 1780.

A true Copy
Fr.s Cuthbert.

Richard Church Esq.r Chief
and Factors of Tellichery.

Gentlemen.

I have received the pleasure of your letter of Yesterday, and do applaud your resolution of maintaining your Settlement,

73 Fort St. George January 1781

6th Settlement, and am happy that it has been in my power to contribute such assistance as you and Major Eotgrave judge will be adequate to your defence untile a reinforcement from Bombay can arrive.

The Detachment of Marines consisting of one Captain, Four Lieutenants and one hundred and eight rank and file will be Landed this afternoon about 4 Oclock, and I beg leave to recommend both the Officers and Men to your particular attention and kindness.

There are 37,000 Star Pagodas on board the Superb, the whole or any part of which you may have for the public Service for your Bills on your Presidency, and you will be pleased to sende a proper Person on board the Superb to receive it.

With my Letter of this date to Major Eotgrave I have sent a Copy of my orders to Capt. O Farrel who Commands the Detachment of Marines, with a request that he would communicate it to you for your Information.

So soon as my Dispatches for Anjengo and Bombay are ready I will sende them to you that you may Dispatch the Patimar Boats with

There

Fort St. George January 5th 1781

Sir

Gentlemen,

Superb in Tellicherry road.
4th Decemr 1780.

Your most Obt Humble Servant
The Admiral
A. Hd. Cuthbert
Secretary

Major Colgrave,
Sir,

I have received the favor of your
Letter of yesterday, and am happy that it
has been in my power to contribute such assi-
stance to your Garrison, as You think will
be adequate to it's defence, until a reinforce-
ment joins you from Bombay.

The Powder which was on board
His Majesty's Ships is landed this Morning,
and the remainder of the 1,000 Barrels now
on board the Company's Ships shall be
landed to morrow Morning.

The Detachment of Marines which
I have ordered on Shore under the Command of
Captain Lawrence O'Farrell consists of, Captain,
four 1st Lieutenants, three Sergeants, three
Corporals, one Drum, one Fife, and 1 Hundred
Effective Privates, with full Cartouch Boxes
and two Flints each Man, and an Able
Surgeon's Mate attends them, they parade
this Afternoon under the Superintendance at
3 O'Clock, and will Land immediately after;
you

75. Fort St. George January 1781

6th you will I make no doubt pay all possible attention both to the Officers and Men, as to Quarters Provisions, and do every other friendly Office in your power to render them.

I have enclosed with this, a Copy of my Orders to Captain Pringle for your information, which you will be pleased to Communicate to the Chiefs & Factors of the Settlement, and with hearty wishes for your health & success, I remain,

Sir,

Your most obt. Hble Servant,

Sufferd, in Tellichery Road, (Signed) The Admiral.
the 4th Decemr. 1780

Home Copy
Arthr. Cuthbert
Secretary.

The following Letter was this day written by Order of the Select Committee to Mr. Cottford, with the Packet to the Honble the Court of Directors.

To Edward Cottford Esqr.

Sir,

I am directed by the Govr. & Select Committee to request you will take charge of the accompanying Packet, and forward it as directed. I have the Honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obt. Hble Servant

Fort St. George
the 5th Janry. 1781.

P. Sullivan
Secy.

Mr. Cottford.
desiring him to take
charge of a Packet.

P. wrote the following letters to the Paymasters of Calamoolah, and Trichinopoly.

To.

To Fort St. George 7th January 5781

To W.m Williams Sight.t Paymaster at Calamcotta &c.

Sir,

To Mr. Light with an order for Grain. —

As you have represented your want of Money for the necessary Disbursements of the Troops stationed in the Tinnevelly Country under the Command of Capt. Eidington, and as the Hon.ble the President and Select Committee, are anxious that any evil of such magnitude, should if possible be averted, — I have the[illegible] Commands to enclose you, the accompanying order and Drawer Cabe upon the Sabob to his Manager at Calamcotah for the delivery of 50,000 Pagodas worth of Paddy for the uses of your Department. This order, and the Contents of this Letter you will be pleased to communicate to Capt. Eidington, with whose assistance, the Committee are assured every purpose will be answered. W.m Barclay at Madura must be supplied with money by you—

I am,

Sir

Your most ob.t Servant

R.d Sullivan Secy —

Fort St. George
7th Janry. 5781 —

A Letter to the same Purport was written to the Paymaster of Trichinopoly with an order for Pag.s 25000. worth of Grain. —

Translations of the Orders are entered in the Country Correspondence N.o 7

52

St —

Fort St. George 8th January 1781.

At a Select Committee. Present

Monday 8th Jany. The Honble Chas Smith Esqr. Chief and Govr.
Sir Eyre Coote K.B. Samuel Johnson
Sir Hector Munro K.B. Alexr. Davidson

The Minutes of last Committee read and approved.

Draft of Genl Letter to the Duke of Kingston read and approved.

Genl Letter to the Duke of Kingston read.

Sir Eyre Coote approves of the Letter, so far as it Coincides with the opinions relative to the Political Situation of Affairs, which he hath already recorded at Bengal. He will deliver in a minute on the Subject at a future Committee.

Sir Eyre Coote's Minute thereon.

Mr. Johnson although he admits of the Maratta war's having been the foundation of our present difficulties, - he yet cannot subscribe to it's being the sole cause of all the Evils which have fallen upon the Company's Affairs. - He will explain himself on this Subject, at a subsequent Committee.

Mr. Johnson's Do.

Read letter from the Nabob as entered in C.C. No. 5 acquainting the Committee that the Balance of his account with Colonel James to the 31st Dec. 1780. is - Pag. 40/42. 25. 15. Agreed that Bonds be granted to Col. James for that Amount, agreeably

Bonds to be granted Col. James. for the Balance of his Acct with the Nabob.

Fort St. George 8th January 5781

agreeably to Resolution of 20th Nov. last

Ft. St. George January 8th 1801

8th Came in the following Letters.

To The Honble Charles Smith Esqr. Secret Department

Chairman & Gentlemen &c. Members of the Select Committee of

Fort St. George.

Honble Sir & Sirs.

This Morning we had the Honor to receive your Commands of the 7th Inst. Also Mr. Secretary Sullivan's Letter accompanying a Minute of the Select Committee relative to the Powers vested in the Commander in Chief & Lieut. Gen.l Sir Eyre Coote.

In our address of the 17th we assigned our Reasons for not sending the Treasure by the Lenby and Hastings as we first intended, and also what steps we meant to pursue relative to it. Notwithstanding we have your Orders of the 7th Inst. before us, yet have we in some respect at a Loss what to do, as it could not have been known to your Honor &c. that a French Privateer had been on that Coast. - Should we now never hear no further intelligence of that Vessel, we shall by the first good Sea Conveyance that offers send a proportion of the Treasure we have in readiness & under a strong Guard Commanded by a Serjeant. - But in Regard to sending away the European Invalids, we beg Leave to convey to you our Ideas of their Importance to us, before we implicitly obey your Commands in this Particular. There Now at present Fourteen Cadets with two Field Pieces, and on their Establishment

From Vizag: with an acct of a French Privateer having been on the Coast and requesting to keep the Invalids

80. Fort St. George January 5th 1781

8th Attachment we confide to protect the Settlement from any future attempts, such as were exhibited on the 3rd October last, for we must confess we cannot place entire confidence in the Sepoys after the unprovoked insult offered by them to our humanity, and the avidity with which they availed themselves, when in power, to plunder the Settlement. The Example is recent, and the leaders of the Mutiny have had the good fortune to escape; and if we may judge from what has happened, it is very probable we may in future have large sums in our Treasury, sufficient, we conceive, to corrupt the fidelity of your Sepoys. We are also of opinion, that had there been at the place such an Europe force as we have at this time, and disposed of in the Roman manner the are at present, the mutiny might have been checked, or perhaps the attempt would never have been made. These considerations have induced us to wish, that the Invalids should be kept here, as connected with your safety and our till we have your further orders on the subject, we shall make no detachments from them.

We are with great respect
Honble Sir and Sirs
Your most obedt
faithful Hble Servants
Ja. Hy Casamajor
Hy Crawford
Chas Maclane
&c.

Vizagapatam
12th Decr 1780.

81. Fort St. George January 5th 1781

To The Honble Charles Smith Esqr.
Pres.t & Gov.r &c.a Members of the Select Committee of
Fort St. George

Honble Sir & Sirs,

I have received Mr. Secretary Sullivan's Letters dated 30.th Ult.o and 7.th Inst.t

I address you upon Honor. &c.a under the following dates, 10.th 18.th 23.rd and 25.th Nov.r 5.th 14.th 15.th two of 17.th and 22.nd Inst.t all which Letters as I have sent them in Duplicate will I hope get safe to Madras — I am collecting Chunam Shells and Charcoal, Bullocks, Sheep and such articles of Curry Stuff as can be procured in this District, and shall send them as opportunities offer — I have ordered Ten Thousand Parahs of Shells to be provided and do in the interim would be glad to know what further quantity you would require from a gross calculation I think it will turn out about 6 Parahs for a Pagoda — It is my intention to send as many Sheep and Bullocks as possible upon the Vessels I freight for Chunam Shells.

I make no doubt but the Gentlemen at Vizag: have transmitted information concerning the two Privateers that were at Calingapatam 24.th Inst.t I most sincerely wish I could hear of their being intercepted by some of our Men of war, otherwise they may not only do a great deal of mischief but keep the Coast in constant alarm. These Ships appearing —

Fort St. George January 5th 1781

S.th appearing at this time is particularly unfortunate, for this is the fair season for the northern craft to go with grain and other supplies to Madras - I have recommended to the owners of the Vessels to go on providing Cargoes & getting their Ships ready, at the same time I have made known to them the danger both from the French Privateers and the armed Boats off Pulicat - I hope every day to hear of the Privateers steering off when I think the vessels may proceed in safety, - I learn from Capt: Lopin, it is their intention to touch at Negapatam, if possible to procure some Piece Goods for the Islands, however no dependance can be placed on such declarations - The Owners of Vessels object to take any Bullocks or Sheep for Madras fearing it may be the cause of their being captured or sunk, owing it seems to the Privateers having examined some of the Papers and making a very strict enquiry whether any part of their Cargoe was designed for Madras - However knowing your distress for Provisions of all Kinds I shall use my influence to prevent any Vessel leaving any Port in this District without carrying a certain number of Sheep & Bullocks for the Presidency

From Ganjam, about Chunam and Provisions -

I have written to the Governor General and also to the Resident at Ballisore, advising all outward bound Vessels to touch at Ganjam for Intelligence

I am with Respect,

Honble

83 Fort St. George January 5th 1781

8th Honble Sir & Sirs,

Ganjam
28th Decem. 1780

Your very obt. hble Servant
John Swiney.

* The same Day the following Letter was writ
ten to Lord Macleod.

To the Right Honble Lord. Macleod.

My Lord.

We have the honor to acknow-
To L.d Macleod, on Law ledge the receipt of your letter of the 5th Inst. and
order to the Capt. of agreeably to your request thereon, enclose
the Kingstown you an order to the Commander of the Duke
of Kingstown to receive the Person mentioned
by you, as a Charter Party Passenger
for England. We have the honor to be,

My Lord,
your Lordship's
most obt. Servants.
Chas Smith &c.
Select Committee

Fort St. George
8th Janry 1781

9th Received the following Letters.

To the Honble Charles Smith Esqr.
Pres.t Gov.r & Co.s Members of the Select Committee of
Fort St. George.

Honble Sir & Sirs.

I transmit the Copy of a letter
I received from the Chief and Co. of Virag-ur now
which I wrote a letter to the Rajah of Mundiaw.
and sent a Peniadar's Guard demanding the
Guns and ammunition. I have received a letter
from the Black officer informing me he has
got possession of one Gun and some Cooly Loads of
ammunition

04. Fort St. George January 1781

9th ammunition— the two other Guns and the remainder of the ammunition having been since found in the Kimedy Country, I have sent orders to deliver the Gun and ammunition to Guzzepetty &c. who I previously advised to send people to receive them.

At the request of the Chief and Cs of Vizag: I wrote circular Letters to all the Zemindars of this District informing them of your resolution in favor of Guzzepetty and warning them not to assist or receive Jugga Naudeo in case he should refuse to submit to your orders and the Munderaw Man in particular wrote me a very promising implicit obedience. Nevertheless he has presumed to receive Juggannaudeo with his Family & Effects and three warlike Stores without giving me the least intimation.

Upon finding the Gun and Stores were actually in the Munderaw Man's possession I have wrote desiring him to accompany the Black Officer to Ganjam thinking it necessary to make the Rajah sensible of the impropriety of his Conduct and also by way of preventing the other Zemindars shewing a like disregard to the orders of Government.

Upon the arrival of the Party at Munderaw, Juggannaudeo wrote a letter informing me of his being there and that he

For w Ganjam concerning the behaviour of the Munderaw Zemindar —

85. Fort St. George January 5th 1781

9th

I hope I should excuse his not letting me know sooner of his coming into this District and desiring my permission to wait upon me at Ganjam – I have accordingly desired him to accompany the Nundenaw Man – I am with respect

Honble Sir &c.

Your very obt. hble Servt.

John Turing.

Ganjam
29th Dec. 1780.

To the Honble Charles Smith Esq.

Govr. and Pres.t &c.

Honble Sir and Sirs,

I had the honor to address you the 29th Inst. – since that the Enemy has only fired a Shot now and then, and we have by our fire prevented them from finishing their new Battery but it is pretty near even pleased – on the South Face they are making a Chain of Redoubts too far for us to annoy with our Guns. I have the honor to be with all due respect.

From Col. Lang
w.t Intelligence.
The Enemy making Redoubts on the south face

Honble Sir and Sirs,

Your very obedient and devoted Servant

Ross Lang.

Vellore
5th January 1781

To the Honble John Whitehill Esqr.

Pres.t & Govr.s &c.s Select Committee of

Fort St. George

Gentlemen,

We have received by the Sea
Horse

86. Fort St. George 9 January 1781

9th Have your favor of the 13th of last June, wherein you mention you have sent on the Granby, Belleisle, Sandwich and Earl of Bristol some French Officers, Soldiers and others belonging to the Garrison of Pondicherry as specified in the list enclosed in your letter.

We shall according to your order give the necessary directions that they may be conveyed to England, pursuant to the instructions you have given to the Captains - Most of them are now at Macoa.

The four officers of the 73rd Regt. Capt. Patrick Barclay, and Lieut. Robt. Law will proceed to England from hence on our Ships. We are;

Gentlemen,

Your most obedt. Humble Servants

Tho.s FitzHughe.

Tho.s Bodam.

Matt.w Raper

Cantaw,
October 29th 1780

11th The following Letters were this Day received.

The Honble Charles Smith Esqr

Presidt and Govr. &c. &c. Select Committee at

Fort St. George

Honble Sir & Sirs

A Vessy Marcanna from Pennacoil has just brought me the following intelligence. 600 Cavalry and 600 Sibbendy Sepoys with a few small Guns were reinforced 5 days ago from the Northward with 3000 Regulars

From Cantaw will give directions for the French Officers to be sent to England

87 Fort St. George January 1781

From Cuddalore
w.t Intelligence.
of the Enemy at
Pennaroil.

11th Regular Cavalry 1500 Regular Sepoys 5 heavy Guns from Ginjee; and 3. or 4000 Polygar Peons with their Chiefs. Tondalwah, Bradlee and Pennatar; — They are erecting a Battery on one of the lower Rocks — if they succeed — it is said Cuddalore will be their next object.

Mr. Cumming has lost his passage to Madras and does not pass this Port to Nagore. I have the honor to be most respectfully

Honble Sir & Sirs,

Your very obt. Servant
P. Daniell

Cuddalore
6th. Janry. 1781

To the Honble. the President and Select Committee

Honble Sir & Sirs,

I had the honor to address you the 5th. Yesterday Morning the enemy opened their new Battery against the hill Fort consisting of One 6, one 12, one 18, & one 24 Pounder from which they kept up a very brisk fire till Noon the after noon when it took fire by some accident amongst themselves of which Lieut. Champanes took the advantage and kept such a fire from the walls on them that the greatest part of it was destroyed and a number of their People killed and wounded. This Morning at 4 O Clock I ordered a Sally under the

Command

8th Fort St George January 1781

11th Command of Capt. Cuppage of 50 Grenadiers,
6 additionals to the artillery with Hammers
and Spikes, 4 Pioneers and a Company of
our own Sepoys, who surprised the battery,
killed and wounded numbers, took one
Stand of Colours and spiked their Guns
with the loss only of 1 European killed, two
Europeans and one Sepoy wounded. The
report from Capt. Cuppage of the behaviour
of the officers and Men has given me the
greatest satisfaction. The Grenadiers gave
only one fire and did the rest with their
Bayonets. I gave them a testimony of my
approbation of their Gallant behaviour
with a Salute when they entered the gates
on their return. Hyder Saib is still making
Coffs to the Southward of us but at a dis-
tance, however I have a watchful eye on
him and I will disturb him as soon as I
Judge it proper so to. I have the honor to be,
With Due Sir & Sirs,
Your most obt. Servant.
Rob. Lang.

From Col. Langwt. an Acct. of a Sally made on the Enemy —

P.S. Since I wrote the above to my very great astonishment the Enemy about 3 o'Clock this afternoon got 3 of their Guns cleared & beg'd to Breach again, but not so quick as usual

Vellore
8th Janry 1781

The

89 Fort St. George January 5781

11th The following Letter was this Day written to the Commanding officer of His Majesty's Ship Sea Horse

Charles Hughes Esqr

Commander of His Majesty's Ship Sea Horse

Sir;

Having received undoubted Information that a French Privateer mounting 18 Guns, is upon the Northern parts of this Coast, — and that some other Vessel may possibly be engaged on the same Service, and the Company having some treasure to draw from their Settlements to the Northward, — We are to request, that His Majesty's Ship the Sea Horse, may be employed to bring the Money to this Presidency. The Chiefs and Councils at Vizag: and Masulipatam are already advised on this Subject, — and they only wait for a secure Conveyance to furnish us with those Supplies, which the Public exigencies require.

To Capt. Hughes, of the Sea Horse requesting she may be sent to the Northward for Money.

We are

Sir,

Your most obt Servants

Chas Smith &c.

Select Committee.

Fort St. George

11th January 1781

go. Fort St. George 13th Janry. 1781

Saturday 13th Janry 1781

At a Select Committee, Present
The Honble Charles Smithe Esqr. Govr. Pres.
Lt. Gol. Sir Eyre Coote K.B. Saml Johnsone Esqr
Mr. Gen.l Sir W.m Mumo K.B. A Davidsone Esqr.
The Minutes of last Committee read & approved
Read Letter from the Committee of Stores.

To the Honble Charles Smithe Esqr.
Pres.t and Govr. &c. Select Committee of
Fort St. George

Honble Sir & Sirs,

Herewith we have the honor to lay before you our Proceedings of the 5th Inst. together with an Annual Indent for the year 1782. and the Triplicate for the year 1781. We are

Honble Sir and Sirs,

Your most obed.t Humble Servants

Ed.d James.
Geo: Maule
B: Scottney

Fort St. George 5th January 1781

From Comm.e of Stores w.th their Minutes & an Indent for 1782.

Clerk

Fort St. George
6th Janry. 1781

At a Committee of Stores. Present.
Colonel Edward James,
Major Geo: Maule:
Bryan Scottney Esqr.
The Minutes of last Committee read & approved
The

91. Fort St. George 13th Janry. 1781

The Commissary of Stores lays before the Committee the following annual Indent of Ordnance, Artillery & Military Stores for the service of the Honble Company on the Coast of Choromandel for the year 1782. which is examined & approved of by the Committee.. agreed that it be forwarded with the Duplicate, to the Honble Select Committee, to go home by the Ships now under dispatch.

Read an Indent of Stores, wanted for Bengal: Resolved to be complied with as far as the Stores will admit of, agreeably to the Remarks of the Commissary of Stores.

The Committee beg leave to represent that it is neither properly signed, nor are the remains of the several Articles indented for, inserted. —

E. Fraser,
Geo: Meadle.
B: Scawney.

General Letter to the Honble the Court of Directors of this Day's date, read & signed.

Gen. Letter signed

Gen. Coote delivers in the following Minute.

Sir Eyre Coote

At the same time I put my Signature to the General Letter of the 9th Janry 1781. I must in Candor and in Conformity to those Opinions to which

Fort St. George 13th Janry 1781

which I have both held and espresse, except against one part of it, and which ascribes all our present misfortunes to the Morattoe war.

That that measure may first have given birth to the Idea of a general combination of the Powers of Hindostan against us I will not endeavor to disprove, but that to it alone we owe the formidable invasion of Hyder Ally into the Carnatic I cannot admit. First Because long after we had commenced hostilities against the Morattoes, Hyder himself continued to make Conquests upon them, and which our operations made him doubt facilitated. His favorite object, and which I am confident he would never have quitted, or sought for a Union with the Morattoes against us, had not our Negociations with Bazalet Jung about the Guntah Sircar, on which he had also views, and the mode in which they were carried on awakened his Jealousy, and very naturally made him apprehend that our ultimate intentions were directed against some part of his Country. Whilst it answered his purpose to make peace with the Morattoes, in order that his attention and strength might in no shape be diverted from providing effectually for the security of his own territories, it was evidently suitable to the Morattoes, in their then situation, as it enabled them to direct their whole force against the operations of our Army under

Fort St. George 13th January 1781

under Brigadier General Goddard — We alarmed
his Fears for the safety of his own Country,
crossed his views upon the Guntoor Sirkar which
he was desirous of obtaining in Farm from Ba:
Salabut Jung — That an able Agent might not be
wanting to foment these offences, we deliberately
gave umbrage to the Nabob Nizam, first by seek-
ing and actually subscribing, to a Treaty of
Friendship with his Brother and Subject
Bazalat Jung, without asking his Consent
or Approbation, and next by demanding
of him a Remission of the Peishcush, or Tribute,
which for these eleven Years and upwards
we have paid him, as in Treaty bound, on
account of the Northern Sirkars. To prevent
any bad Consequences arising, from the Delay
in the Payment of the Peishcush, which
was owing in the first place to a Temporary
Inability created by the heavy Current Ex-
pences which were unavoidably incurred
by the Siege of Condechurry, and in the next
place perhaps by mismanagement — I
was induced, when I stopped here in my
to Bengal to recommend the mission of
Mr. Holland, as Embassador to the Nizam's
Court, to assure him that the Peishcush should
be paid, and to explain to him the Cause
of its Detention

Sir Eyre's Minute regarding Genl. Lieut. Pringle's Letter.

The Nizam has in his Letter
to this Government, and in his Conversation
with

94. Fort St. George 13th Janry 1781

with Mr. Holland, who communicated them to the Governor General & Council, avowed his displeasure on account of our behaviour with regard to the Peshgusha and the Guntoor Treaty, and he has without scruple acknowledged his having for these reasons, encouraged & connived at a Combination of the Powers against us.

With all these circumstances before me, and of which the Records both here and in Bengal bear Testimony, and further knowing it as a thing certain, that at the very time the treaty was carrying on with Bazalet Jung, Hyder would have entered into an offensive & Defensive Alliance with us, I would do an injury to myself & a still greater one to our Superiors, who are to pass their Judgement on Men & Measures by the Documents handed them from their respective Governments in India, did I not subscribe to that part of the Gentlemen to the Court of Directors which I have hereby excepted against, & not also elucidate the other Causes, besides the Mharatta War, which have assisted to hasten our present Distresses.

I request that this may go a number in the Packet now under Dispatch

E. G.

&c.

95. Fort St. George 13th Janry 1781.

The Commander in Chief acquaints the Committee, that the situation of Permacoil, Wandewash, & other places of Consequence to the Southward, - most of them reduced almost to the last extremity, - will necessarily oblige him to march the Army in a few days. He would willingly have done this sooner had he not been in expectation of a fat supply of Bullocks, for carrying Provisions. But, - as he still finds that day after day, - this supply is still at a greater distance, - he considers any longer delay, as fraught with immense bad Consequences. At the same time, he thinks some method might be fallen upon, to furnish his Army with such immediate provision as they might stand in need of, - at the same time, that other objects of importance might be answered. For this purpose, he recommends that the Honble Company's Ships The Dartmouth, Bellmont, Rochford, Neptune and Grosvenor, now in the roads, be ordered (after landing as much of their Cargoes as is at hand) to Pondicherry, - where they will be able to cover smaller Vessels with Grain and other Articles which may be sent from hence; - and, moreover, be so situated, as to assist with much advantage to the Service in the total Demolition of the Works and Mines of Pondicherry.

The General's opinion concerning the Army's marching -

We

Minute thereon. The Committee are satisfied that the mode proposed by General Coote, is the only feasible one at present, for supplying the Army with Provisions. They regret, indeed, the deviating, in any respect from the intentions of the Company, who meant that the Ships above mentioned, should proceed without the least hindrance to Bengal. The well being, however, the safety, we may almost say of the Carnatic, depends upon the operations of the ensuing Campaign. To obstruct them with difficulties therefore, would be hazarding every thing, for the mere sake of adhering to an order, — the object of which at this season of the year, cannot possibly be frustrated, above a week or fortnight.

Resolutions in Consequence — Resolved, in consequence; that the Commanders of the above Ships, be ordered, after taking out part of their lading, to proceede to the Roads of Pondecherry for the purposes above mentioned, — there to continue until they receive further orders from the Committee or the Commander in Chief of the Army. Resolved also, that two swift sailing Vessels be so stationed, — one to the Northwards of this Port, and another to the Northwards of Pondecherry — that the speediest Intelligence may be conveyed to the Indiamen, should an Enemy

97 Fort St. George 13th Janry 1781

Enemy appear upon the Coast. In which
event — We Fleet will take such measures, —
keeping in Company if possible, — as in the
Judgement of the Commanders, shall appear
to tend most to their General and particular
Safety —

90. Fort St. George January 1781

13th Received the following Letter from the Commanding Officer of His Majesty's Ship Sea Horse—

The Honble Charles Smith Esqr
Gov. & Cred. &c and the Council,

Fort St. George—

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your Letter of the 11th Inst and request Leave to acquaint You that His Majesty's Ship under my Command, is by instructions from Admiral Sir Edward Hughes ordered to proceed immediately after her return to this Place to join the Admiral at Bombay—

From the Comm.r of the Sea Horse repres.g That she is ordered to join the Admiral at Bombay—

Upon due reflection on the admirals orders, and the very bad state of the Ships; I think it indispensibly my duty to proceed with her, without loss of time to Bombay, as a Delay on this Coast might be the Cause, in the present crippled and leaky condition of the Ships, of preventing her arriving, at the only Port in India where she can receive the necessary repairs—

I have the honour to subscribe myself
Honble Sir & Sirs,
Your most obt Hble Servt
Chas Boughes—

Fort St. George
Jany 13th 1781—

14th In consequence of the above Rec.d the following Letter was this day written to Capt.n Boughes—

&c.

Fort St. George, January 1781.

99
14
11

To Charles Hughes Esqr
Commander of His Majesty's Ships
Seahorse

Sir,

We have been favoured with your Letter of the 13th Inst. acquainting us, that His Majesty's Ships under Your Command, is by instructions from Admiral Sir E. Hughes ordered to proceede immediately after Repair: turn to this Place to joine the Admiral at Bombay: and further that on due reflection on the Admirals Orders, and the very bade State of your Ships, you think it indispensibly your duty to proceede without loss of time to Bombay as a Delay on this Coaste might be the Cause in the present crippled and leaky condition of the Ships, of preventing her arriving, at the only Port in India where she can receive the necessary Repairs. —

To Capt. Hughes in answer to the above. —

We are fully sensible of the urgency of these Reasons, — and would yield to them in relinquishing our Requeste, were not the difficulties in which we are involved, superior to every other Consideration. We wish not trouble You by enumerating, the Causes, which have induced us to desire You would deviate from your Orders. All we shall say is, that the exigency of public affairs, indispensibly requires a Supply —

100. Fort St. George, January 1781

14th Supply of Money — That that supply can at present only come to us from the Northwards, — and that there is imminent danger in risquing it on board a Country or any other Vessel, excepting one of force, for the reasons set forth in our former letter —

The short time, which it will take to accomplish a Trip to and from Bengal cannot be of any material detention to your Passage to Bombay. And we are well convinced that Admiral Sir E.d Hughes will highly approve of your sending us your assistance, when it is so absolutely required for the general safety. —

We are

Sir,

Your most obt Servants

Chas Smithe &c.a
Select Committee

Fort St. George
14th Jany 1781

To the Honble Charles Smithe Esqr
Pres.t & &c.a Select Committee of
Fort St. George

Received the following Letter from Col: James —

Honble Sir & Sirs,

In consequence of the resolution of the Honble Committee of the 20th Inst. that Bonds should be granted to me agreeable to the Nabob's request, I lose no time in repeating my preceding solicitations for the settlement of these Accounts, and have now the satisfaction to deliver to your Honor &c.a (thro' the hands

Fort St. George January 1781

14th hands of the President) the Certificate which he received from His Highness the Nabob accordingly testifying that my Accounts with him are settled.

From hence it follows that the resolution of the Honble Committee for granting me Bonds is enforced; and it were fortunate for me, if the Condition of my health did not require any further Solicitations, but I now find myself under a necessity to represent that the Malady in the which I have long been troubled appearing daily to encrease, from the fatigues of the last Campaign under the Command of Sir Hector Munro. Mr Cosby with most of the other Surgeons have given it as their opinion, that it will be proper for me to repair to England, to obtain Cure, and not hazard it in this Climate, which (at the same time that it gives me just Cause to lament the encrease of danger to which my Health has so long been exposed by the hard delay of the Nabob) may put me under the necessity of embracing the first opportunity of going home; which, indeed, it might have been most safe for me to do, by the Ships that is now about to depart, if this my principal dependance, had been secured in time. My situation however now seriously requiring that I should be ready when the next occasion

Hume Cole Sames desiring the bonds for the Nabob's debt to him may be divided into several small ones.

Sians

102. Fort St. George January 1701

14th occasion offers and that it would subject me to much hardship, to leave the bulk of my Dependance behind me; whilst my health is so precarious, I hope that the Honble Comm: mittee will do not think it unreasonable in me to request, that instead of Bonds, I may be provide with Bills on the Honble the Court of Directors, payable in one or two Years, and if for two, with the interest for the last Year, at the rate of Ex Change at which Bills have lately been drawn: Or if Bills for the whole Sum may be thought inconvenient that I may be indulged with these, for such a Sum as the Committee may think proper to grant accompanied with a Letter from the Honble Boards, recommending the acceptance of the bills, in consideration of Twenty seven Years Service and my late sufferings; and that Bonds may be granted for the rest. But if my request cannot be complied with at present, that I may obtain a promise from the Honble Committee that it will be done when I am about to depart, and in the meantime that Bonds may be made out as soon as may be, payable in 12 Months, with the usual Interest, and that they may be divided into Sums not exceeding Pags. 5000. (the better to enable me to accommodate my affairs) which may afterwards be exchanged for Bills.

I

Fort St. George January 1781

14th I bumbly to the Kinde indulgence of the Committee, for introducing the subject of my ill state of health, as it is the undisguised excuse, which I have to offer for my absence from my station in the fields, at this critical juncture; hoping it will be so received, and that such services as my health will permit me to render as Commandant of this Garrison, in proposing and executing the best arrangements for the future defence thereof, that, that station and my situation will permit, it being my ardent wish that my long services may be closed in such a manner as to give entire satisfaction to my Honble Employers and to my immediate respected superiors by whom they are represented +

I have the honor to be with the greatest respect +

Honble Sir & Sirs

Your most faithful &
most obt. Hble Servante +
E. James +

Fort St. George
11th Jany 1781

The 15. Came in the following Letters +

To the Honble Charles Smithe Esq +
&c &c Select Committee of +

Fort St. George

Honble Sir & Sirs,

Mr. Borges having received a letter from Mr. Holland at Hydrabade, containing matter of Importance we have the honor to transmit You a copy thereof. We have

10th Fort St. George January 1781

15th have not any Accounts from the Southward that corroborate at all this Intelligence from Hydrabade; and we therefore entertain hopes that it may probably be groundless - nevertheless it behoves us to be on our guard - and we have accordingly adopted every measure in our power that can be offered to protect the Country; We have directed Captain Johnson to reinforce the Party on the banks of the Kistna, with such parte of his Battn as can be spared from the defence of Kondapillee, and we have written the Chief and Council of Vizag for any assistance they can afford us, and to at least to relieve the Garrison of Samulcotah, and a party we have at Ellore, both of which it will be in their power to encrease the strength of that Garrison, as a large store of Provisions is laying in there, for the supply of the Bengal Troops; Captn Bridges who commands the party now in the field, has been made acquainted with the contents of Mr Hollands Letter, and we have particularly recommended to him to keep a careful look out, and to shou[ld] have be informed of the approach of so large a force, as our Intelligence mentions, to provide at all events for a safe retreat to this Place. The Zemindars having promised

From Masulipatam w[e] Intelligence from Mr Holland that 12,000 Horse are about to enter the Circars

very

105 Fort St. George January 1781

15th very considerable payments, which indeed are daily coming in, we have carefully concealed Mr. Hollands information; being well convinced that if by any untoward accident it should get abroad, all our affairs here would be materially prejudiced thereby.

We are with Respect
Honble Sir & Sirs,
Your most obt. Hble Servants
James Hodges
John Peter Boileau
Thos. Barnard
Alex. Pringle

Masulipatam the 5th Janry 1781

James Hodges Esqr.
Sir,

His Highness the Nabob has informed me that he has heard Hyder intends immediately sending a Party of 12,000 Horse to lay waste the Circars but that he cannot be absolutely certain of the truth of the intelligence, I think it necessary to communicate to you as I have received it, that you may take such measures as may appear necessary for securing the Grain & Bullocks belonging to the Honble Company, I am

Hydrabad the 26th Decr. 1780.

Sir
Your obedient Servant
(Signed) John Holland

A true Copy
Alex. Pringle
Secy

P.S.

Fort St. George January 1781

15th have not any accounts from the Southward that corroborate at all this Intelligence from Hydrabade; and we therefore entertain hopes that it may probably be groundless - nevertheless it behoves us to be on our guard - and we have accordingly adopted every measure in our power that can be of use to protect the Country; We have directed Captain Johnson to reinforce the Party on the banks of the Kistna; with such a part of his Battn. as can be spared from the defence of Kondapilley, and we have written the Chief and Council of Vizag, for any assistance they can afford us, and at least to relieve the Garrison of Samulcotah, and a party we have at Ellore, both of which we will endeavour to allow to increase the strength of that Garrison, as a large Store of Provisions is laying in there, for the supply of the Bengal Troops; Capt. Bridges who commands the Party now in the field, has been made acquainted with the contents of Mr. Holland's Letter, and we have particularly recommended to him to keep a careful look out, and should he be informed of the approach of so large a force, as our Intelligence mentions, to provide at all events for a safe retreat to this Place. The Poligars having promised

from Masulipatam
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185 Fort St. George January 1781

15th very considerable payments, which indeed are daily coming in, we have carefully concealed Mr. Hollands information; being well convinced that if by any untoward accident it should get abroad, all our affairs here would be materially prejudiced thereby.

We are with Respect
Honble Sir & Sirs,
Your most ob.t Obed.t Servants
James Hodges
John Peter Boileau
Thos. Barnard
Alex.r Pringle

Masulipatam
5th Janry 1781

James Hodges Esq.r
Sir,

His Highness the Nizam has informed me that he has heard Hyder intends immediately sending a Party of 12,000 Horse to lay waste the Circars but that he cannot be absolutely certain of the truth of the intelligence, I think it necessary to communicate to you as I have received it, that you may take such measures as may appear necessary for securing the Grain & Bullocks belonging to the Company, I am,

Hydrabad
26th Dec.r 1780.

Your obedient Servant
(Signed) John Holland

A true Copy
Alex.r Pringle
Secry

&c

106 Fort St. George January 15th 1781

To the Honble Charles Smith Esqr
Pres.t & Gov.r &c.a Select Committee of
Fort St. George

Hon.ble Sir & Sirs,

From Masulipat.m
w.th Bill of Lading

Enclosed we have the honor to transmit to you Invoice and bills of lading of Sundry Articles of Garrison Stores, laden on board the Dovey Lebanon Nursemoolee, Mocca Boligah & Lyang, on account of the Honble Company, & goes consigned to your Honors &c.a We are respectfully,

Hon.ble Sir & Sirs,

Your most ob.t & h.ble Servants
James Hodges
John Caleb Boileau
Tho.s Bannard
Alex.r Pringle

Masulipatam
6.th January 1781

To the Honble Charles Smith Esq.r Pres.t
and Gentlemen of the Select Committee
Hon.ble Sir & Sirs,

Herewith the reluctance I feel in my-
self necessitated to trouble you with any concern
or with any repeated subject on them, but the
duty I owe my self and Family with I hope plead
for the Trespass.

Long since represented to you my
inconvenience in being appointed to the duty
of Major of Artillery without the emoluments
due to that Station, and now apprehend you

have

107 Fort St. George 7 January 1781

15th, have not conceived this matter in the light
you will possibly see it in, when you favor
me with a reconsideration
on the 17th Dec. 1779. the Honble
President & Select Committee were pleased to ap-
point me to the duty of Lieut. Col. Horne, Major
of Artillery with the pay, I therefore conceived my-
self fully entitled to his share of Gratuity, but
on demand, found it had been paid to Major
Meade of Engineers, for six Months, from the
25th March — the time Lieut. Colonel Horne va-
cated his right. Permit me to present to you
that I apprehend this was owing to its not
being considered that the gratuity is due to
the six establish'd Majors only, one of Artillery,
one of Engineers, and four of Infantry, and
that a Supernumerary Field officer cannot
from the Honble Company's Directions be
entitled, you will therefore judge how far
my doing the duty of the Artillery Major
entitles me. — Your having considered the In-
fantry Officers at home in England, as off
the strength of Corps, and filled up their
vacancies; as Col. Horne is now at the close of
being two Years absent, after which time
I understand the Honble Court of Directors
consider an officer off their List, permit me
to request you will consider Major Horne
in this Predicament of Vacancy to the Corps
of

Thom. Major — Clifton applying for Field officer's Gratuity &

ted

Hom

15th of Artillery, and that you will please to
grant me Commission and Rank as Major
from the 23rd of March 1779, the time
Major Horne went home: I have now the
Command of above forty Officers and five
hundred Men; to support so large a Com-
mand, I hope you will see no impropriety
in granting me also, the Pay and Batta
of Lieut. Coll. during my Command.

I have the Honor to be,
Honble Sir & Sirs,
Your obedient Servant
Chs. Cliftony

Camp at St. Thomas's Mount,
15th January 1781

Army march'd from 17. This day the army march'd from St. Thomas's
the Mount. Mount under the Command of Lieut. General
Sir Eyre Coote.

18th Received the following Letters.

The Honble Charles Smith Esq. Pres. and Gov.
& Council of Fort St. George.

Sir and Sirs,

From Capt. Hughes, declines lending the Sea Horse; intends sailing to Bombay the 20th

I have the honor to acknow-
ledge the receipt of your Letter of the 14th Inst.
and request leave to refer you to my Letter of
the 13th His Majesty's Ship under my com-
mand being in so bad a Condition, as not to
allow of any other answer.

The Ship will be ready to sail
for Bombay on the 20th of this Month, I
am to desire that any Dispatches Your
Honble

10th Fort St George January 1781

10th Honble Board may have for Admiral Sir Edr. Hughes Knight of the Bath he may be delivered home.

I have the honor to subscribe myself

Honble Sir & Sirs,

Your most obedient and most humble Servant.

Chas. Hughes.

Sea / Sea Horse in Madras road 18th January 1781

To the Honble Charles Smith the Gov. and Select Committee.

Honble Sir & Sirs,

Since I had the honor to address you last under date the 7th Inst. I have had the honor of a long conference with the Rajah, in which I found him more open and communicative than he had hitherto been. He told me he had answered the Honble the Governor's Letter by my last Dispatch under Cover to his Vakeel, that I might depend upon his warmest intentions towards the common Cause, and that lest his Letters under Cover to his Vackeel should miscarry he begg'd of me to communicate in my Letters to you and the Commander in Chief the substance of this our Conversation, which was carried on by the interpretation of the Rev.d Mr. Swartz who is so obliging as to attend me for this purpose whenever I go to the Rajah, and occasionally to go to him by himself at my request for which Service I have thought it but

Copy

10th but justice to allow him a Calcutkin which he himself has limited to six boys.

The Rajah took up the Honble the Governor's letter to him as consisting of three distinct heads. First he said he was accused of inactivity and want of warmth in not having furnished a body of horse, on which he observed that all which could by any means be collected on this Country were few, scarce adequate to the protection of the harvest unless well supported and actively employed, and that therefore nothing could be done in that way from hence towards reinforcing the army in the Field, but that there were a number of horse who had long eat of his bread, but who had sought a livelyhood in the service of our present enemy Hyder and were now with his army, that they did this, when that mischief fell upon him, from which it had pleased the Honble Company to relieve him, and which he should ever remember with a most grateful heart, that he was sure it was their wish to serve with his friends and Protectors, rather than with his enemies, but that they, and their horses which were their only property must do it, and were he empowered to send to them a Cowle with assurance of the Honble Company's service upon

From Col. Brathwaite.
has a conference with the Rajah, on the subject of the letter to him, imputing his backwardness in furnishing money and horse &c

10th upon a stipulated agreement, that they would immediately join our army, but that it could not be expected that any influence of his would indince them to quit a service in which they had been maintained many Years upon an uncertainty, that he had repeatedly written upon this subject, but had received no answer as to the means of providing for these horse, but was nevertheless accused of want of warmth, and inactivity in not having procured them, that the charge hurt him exceedingly, that he owed every thing to the Honble Company, that his wishes night & day were for their prosperity, that the Governor had told his Vackeel, that too much money would be required for the maintenance of the horse to be deducted out of the four Lacks, that were his means equal to his wishes this Sum would have been sufficient, and that the Horse should have joined our army without further discussions, that they should have been the Honble Company's to dispose of in any manner they thought proper, but that in Truth he was not equal to support such a charge in addition to the four Lacks, that this must be a fixed & permanent Charge otherwise injustice would be done to the men who were in a service, which had maintained them so many Years, in fine that it was his

cannott

Fort St George January 1781

10th earnest wish to see them dependant upon the Honble Company for support & protection, and so firmly attached to them as he himself was, that in regard to length of time to bring them to perfection, he did not believe they were of a nature ever to be brought to the use and discipline of regular Cavalry.

Secondly, he was instructed to be guided by my advice in all matters relating to the defence of his Country, it was a pleasant instruction to him, and that he would attend to it in the fullest sense, that if he or any of his Servants had done otherwise, it was owing to foolish prejudices to Customs which they were educated in, that their Knowledge was not so extensive in these matters as ours, that he erred himself sometimes perhaps from not seeing things at once in their full extent, with the Consequences & Conclusions which might follow or be drawn from them, that he had experienced the good effects of my Conduct, and would at all times chearfully submit to my advice.

lastly/

Thirdly, and Lastly, great dependance was placed on him for supplies of provisions and grain, that nothing on his power should be wanting on his part, that as to grain he would immediately give the strictest orders to prevent the Exportation of it from his Country that the

more

Fort St. George January 1701

10th more might be ready for our use, but that he hoped, as it was the sale of the Grain which alone enabled him to collect money, that the Merchants at Madras and other places under the Company's authority might be directed to lose no time in coming hither to provide themselves with it, as otherwise that it would fall heavy on his people who had been used formerly to draw large sums of money from Condechenny, Portonovo and other places, to which it would be now improper to send Grain - or that he might be permitted to make part of his payments in Grain delivered upon reasonable terms to such of the Honble Company's Ships as they should think proper to send to receive it. That by the blessing of God and the Honble Company's protection he had got in the Gar Crop, which was of a quality only fit for home and immediate consumption that the Chamba an valuable Crop was now beginning to cut, that money would of course come in and he that he would chearfully part with it as fast as it did, and that the security and good order in which he now found his Country enabled him to say that he did not doubt but that in ten days, I might begin again upon the fortifications, or any other exertion I deemed necessary

for

11th Fort St. George January 5th 1781

10th for the better security of this Fort & Country and that I should not apply to him in vain.

I shall not Honble Sir & Sirs, add any comment upon this Conversation, but that it was delivered with more apparent frankness, chearfullness and sincerity than any I have yet had with the Rajah; He has since begun some payments to Mr. Boine and has issued orders to prevent the Exportation of Grain, which has somewhat disconcerted the People about Trinivelewash. As the Rajah has desired me to send you the narrative of our Conference I send it by his own Tapal and it will serve to prove how far that now passes unmolested.

I have the honor to be with the greatest respect,

Honble Sir & Sirs,

Your faithful & Obt. Servant

Peter Braithwaite

Panjore
12th Janry. 1781

To the Honble the Pres.t & Select Committee of
Fort St. George.

Honble Sir & Sirs,

I had the honor to address You the 8th. The Enemy have completed two breaches in the hill Fort, and at nine O'Clock last night & three this Morning they attacked one of them and were repulsed each time & they Leave

115. Fort St. George January 1781

From Col. Lang, w.t acct of an assault on the Hill Fort, & repulsed by Lieut. Champnies.

To 19th leave for the present to refer you to the enclosed account of the attack from Lieut Champneys who commands on the Hill.

Knowing well the injury that the Enemy getting possession of the Hill Fort will be to this Garrison, I have this day reinforced it, and my orders are to defend it to the last extremity. They are carrying on regular approaches to the Southward leading directly to the Tank that supplies the Garrison with water. I have the honor to be,

Honble Sir &c &c,

Your most ob.t Servant

Ross Lang.

defend

Vellore.
14th Jany 1781.

At nine O'Clock we beat to arms, a little after the attack began on our right hand breach, as you know there was no trouble in mounting, we soon saw the Sepoys quickly cleared the Bastion with Grape. Their efforts were immense to form a Lodgement on it, with bundles of Grass and milk hedge. This they at last effected, & were quiet after two hours and a half conflict. At three they came on again in the Land cried a Ladder which they threw over the ha ha but the severe platoons from the right & left sections of the Rampart checked them, and Sepoys gained the Ladder and passed over on it to the Bastion, & cleared the breach of both living and dead, and attempted with two port fires to consume the Lodgement, but it was too green, a shot or two entering

116 Fort St. George January 1781

10th. entering the Bastion at this time cleared it and wounded several. I then got a Volunteer party with promises of reward to clear the lodgement which was immediately performed by Serjants Lanktree & Johnston. —

This day the following notice was ordered to be affixed to the Gates of the Fort, and to be circulated to the different Captains & Owners of Ships.

It is recommended to all Vessels using this Port to be at all times prepaired for moving under the Protection of the Guns of the Fort on the following Signals for Ships in the Road and Private Signals. Signals being made.

And that every assistance may be expeditiously given, to Vessels in the Road, should they be attacked in the night, or have knowledge of any being near them, the following Signals are established for that purpose

By Day

Signals.

On an Enemy or suspected Ship's appearing One Gun will be fired from the N. Angle of the Sea Line, and a Dutch Flag hoisted at the Flag Staff, at which time all Vessels are recommended instantly to move as near as possible to the Surf. —

By Night

Should any Vessel be surprised & she is to fire Guns until answered from the Fort, by the Firing of Three Guns from the N. Angle of the

117. Fort St. George January 1781

10th the Sea Line, and by hoisting at the Flag Staff Three Lights when all Vessels are to move in as before.

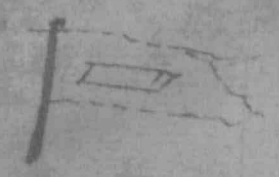
Vessels without Guns are recommended to keep a small Boat or Catamaran always prepared that they may have the means of giving Intelligence to those Vessels in the Roads, that having Guns, may be enabled to make the aforesaid Signals. —

Private Signals for the Fort and Vessels coming in the Roads.

1st Signal to be hoisted here in case of an Enemy in these Roads.

2nd Do to be worn by any Vessel carrying Intelligence or any other Business — to be very conspicuous.

1st a White Flag with a large Red Bar to be answered from the Ships by a Dutch Flag at the Fore Top Gallant Mast Head — — —



2nd a Red Flag with a large White Bar at the Fore Top Gallant Mast Head with a Red Pendant hoisted over it. — — —

19th The following Letters were this Day written, and Dispatched

To Sir Edward Hughes K. B.

Rear Admiral of the Red and Commander in Chief of His Majesty's Ships in India

Sir

118. Fort St. George January 1781

19th Sir,

I have the honour to receive your Letter of the 11th December - advising us of your Arrival at Tellicherry with the Squadron under your Command.

Peter E. Hughes. Thanks him for the Assistance given to Major Colgrave encls. 2. Correspondence with the Capt. Hughes.

The enclosures which accompanied this Letter, have fully informed us of the State of the Garrison and Inhabitants of Tellicherry; & the reasons which actuated the Gov., Major Colgrave, & the Chief & Factors, to the resolution of not evacuating that Place; - and of the seasonable assistance which you were enabled to give them from his Majesty's Fleet, for defending it until further succours should arrive.

Considering the situation of Tellicherry, & the representations which were made to You by the Chief & Factors, We most undoubtedly shall hold Major Colgrave blameless for continuing to defend it at your request, although contrary to our Orders. At the same time we take the opportunity of expressing to you our warmest acknowledgements, for the attentions which you were pleased to pay to the wants of that officer, in furnishing him with Men, Money, and Ammunition.

Since the last Letters from this Coast, little or nothing of any moment hath happened. Hyder Ally Cawn, with the main body of his Army, hath lain at Arcot. His eldest Son, Tippoo Saheb, hath been carrying on an ineffectual

119 Fort St. George January 1781

19th ineffectual approaches against Pollores - and the remainder of his troops, have been employ'd in attacks upon Permacoil, Vandewash and other small places to the Southward.

To prevent the further progress of his Arms in that Quarter, Lt. Genl. Sir Eyre Coote, marched on the 17th Inst. from St. Thomas's Mount, - and we have the most sanguine expectations, that if the enemy risques a battle, - the war will speedily be brought to a conclusion. -

We have the pleasure to inform you that the Dartmouth, Bellmont, Neptune, Rochford & Grosvenor, Indiamen imported here the 11th Inst. They left Portsmouth the 3d June.

Accompanying we take leave to inclose you, Copies of some Letters which have passed between us & Capt. Hughes of His Majesty's Ships the Sea Horse. The nature of our request & of his refusal appears upon the face of this Correspondence, & to that we beg you will be referred.

We have the honor to be with great regard &c.

Sir,

your most obt. Hble Servants

Charles Smith
Chn. Select Committee

Fort St. George
19th January 1781

To the Honble William Hornby Esqr.
Pres. & Govr. & the Select Committee at
Bombay

Gentlemen,

Fort St. George January 5th 1781

19th Gentlemen,

We have been favored with
your Letter of the 23rd of Sept.r
Admiral Sir Edward Hughes with
having favored you with the reasons which in-
duced him to request the Chief & Factors of
Tellicherry, & Major Colgrave not to evacuate
that Garrison, & the seasonable succours
which he supplied them with, for its further
defence. We should be happy, were we in a
situation capable of affording the Garrison
of Tellicherry, that assistance, which in the
end it may probably stand in need of.
But, the fact is, our own demands for both the
Mens de Meaney, are so urgent and so consi-
derable, - that the supplies already sent
us from Bengal, are far from being ade-
quate to our wants. Once again, therefore, if
it should be expedient to hold the Settlement
of Tellicherry, - we must beg your assistance
to it, to the utmost of your power. Should the
affairs of the Carnatick take a favorable turn,
we then will endeavour to relieve you from
the burthen, with the as much expedition
as the nature of the service will admit.

Our last advices from Bombay
give us reason to expect an acquiescence in
the overtures for Peace, which have been
made to the administration thereby

The

To Bombay on the same subject, with Ext. from Bonake

further

Fort St. George January 1781

19th the Governor General and Council of Bengal:
To this effect Nana Furnavies writes to Lieut. Gen.
Sir Eyre Coote, - and to this effect, the Vackeel of the
Nabob of the Carnatic, writes to his Master. The cer-
tainty of the Mharattoe's intentions, however, will
be much sooner known to you, than to this Presi-
dency; - We can only express our satisfaction at
the Prospect of termination to a war, - the most -
unprofitable that hath ever yet been waged by the
English in India; - and at the probability that
the leisure it hath afforded Hyder of invading the
Carnatic, - will be amply made amends for by the
Chastisement which that ambitious Chieftain
will receive, from the confederated power of the
three Presidencies.

Accompanying your wilt receive
a letter under your address from the Worshipful Court
of Directors, - and a Copy of a letter to this Presidency,
the Contents of which it is necessary you should
be made acquainted with.

We are with great
Gentlemen,
your most obt. Servants
Chas. Smith &
Co. Select Committee

Fort St. George
19th Jany 1781.

E H

122 Fort St. George 20th Janry 1781

At a Select Committee, Present

Saturday the 20th

The Honble Charles Smith Esq. Pres.t & Gov.r
" Samuel Johnstone "
" Alexander Davidson "
Sir Eyre Coote and Sir Hector Munro absent on service — "

Minutes of the last Committee read, and approved.

Read the following Letter

From Vizagapatam.

To the Honble Charles Smith Esq. Pres.t & Gov.r
&ca " Members of the Select Committee of

Fort St. George

Honble Sir & Sirs,

From Vizag.m Letter from Capt.n Wm.s Copy of Letter from Mr. Holland

We have received your Commands of the 12th & 26th Ult.o and every possible attention shall be paid to them. The Battalions shall without delay be recruited up to 120 each Company; and the Treasure shall be forwarded to the Presidency by the first and every other opportunity that can be supposed safe. "

We have the honour to lay before you Copy of a letter from Mr. Holland at Hydrabad to the Circar Council of Masulipatam. Their Letter to us in Consequence of that Intelligence, and our reply — Our reasons for not sending Detachments to the Masulipatam District we flatter ourselves will appear to your Honor &c.a satisfactory

We

123 Fort St. George 20th Jany 1781

We are with the respect.
Honble Sir & Sirs,
Your most ob.t & faithfull hble Servants.
J. W. J. Casamaijor.
W. Crawford.
Nath.l Barlow.
Chas Maxlone

Vizagapatam
12th Jany 1781.

Copy of a Letter to Masulipatame

To James Hodges Esq.r
Provisional Chief and Council at
Masulipatame

Gentlemen,

We have received your Letter of the 5th Inst. accompanying Copy of Mr. Holland's Advices from Hydrabad. We have seriously consider'd upon requisition for Troops, and must beg leave to offer our reasons why we cannot consistently spare any Sepoys from this District. The Extent of Country we have to protect, the defenceless state of our Fort, and being surrounded with a great number of Independant Hill Zemindars, are arguments sufficient why we cannot make Detachments; - but we must also advert to more causes which disable us from affording you any succour at this time. The two Battalions destined for the service of this District, were so entirely deranged by the mutiny, that we lost by that event 700 of the best Sepoys, and one of the Corps is yet deficient above 100 to complete, and it cannot be supposed that the Recruits are yet disciplin'd; - our apprehen-

sions

Fort St. George 20th Janry 1781

apprehensions from the Northern Mahrattoes are by no means at an end, and the delay of the march of the Bengal Troops warrants such a suspicion; and should the Tchapour district be invaded we shall indispensibly be obliged to send a Force there, as there is but one Batn for the service of that Country, & during this season we may surely have some expectations of an Invasion by Sea — thus situated we presume that you will allow our reasons conclusive for not making Detachments from the small Force we have for the defence of this extensive Circar. We have also great arrears due which we are collecting, and the removement of Troops would certainly effect the Collections; and were we to offer our opinion relative to the Intelligence from Hydrabad, we cannot conceive that Hyder Aly will venture to send a Force equal to the invasion of these Circars, and to oppose nearly four Batns which you can bring into the Field after reserving one entire Batn for the defence of such a fortified place as Masulipatam, for we conclude that you have been able to recruit to make up the deficiency occasioned by the six Companies of Grenadiers having been detached from your Circar. We are

Gentlemen

Your most obt humble Servants

(signed) J. Hy Casamajor
J. Saunbil

Vizag:
9th Janry 1781

True Copy
Chas Sharpe
Secy

Copy.

125 Fort St. George 20th Janry 1781

Copy of a letter from Mr. Holland to the Chief of Masul:

James Rodges Esqr.

Sir,

His Highness Nizam Ali has informed me that he has heard Hyder intends immediately sending a Party of 12,000 Horse to lay waste the Circars, but that he cannot be absolutely certain of the Truth of the Intelligence. I think it necessary to communicate to you as I have received it, that you may take such measures as may appear necessary for securing the Grain and Bullocks belonging to those Countries — I am

Sir

Your obedient servant.

(Signd) John Holland &c

Hydraba &c.
26th Dec. 1780

A true Copy
(Signd) Alex. Dingle
Secy

A true Copy Chas Megatone
Secy

Copy of a letter from the Chief & Council at Masul: to

Do James Henry Casamajor Esq &c

Chief &c. Council of Vizagapatam.

Gentlemen.

We have just now received a letter from Mr. Holland, Resident at Hydraba, which contains Intelligence affording reason to apprehend, those Circars may shortly be invaded by the Forces of Hyder Ally — Copy of this letter goes enclosed to you — in Consequence of this Intelligence we are making such a Disposition of the Troops in this District, as may best answer

the

the Purpose of protecting it;— but we find them so insufficient, in point of numbers, fully to accomplish this view, that we have judged it expedient to apply to you for any assistance it may be in your power to afford us— We persuade ourselves that you will readily comply with this our request, so far as may be consistant with the state of Affairs in your own District.— We have one Company of Sepoys and an European Officer, in Garrison at Jamelcotah,— another Company is stationed at Ingeram with the Resident.— We could wish that these, at least, might be relieved by like numbers from Virdagpatam; and the above stations being near your Borders, it will be the less inconvenient to you to furnish the Guards for them.— Our Coucars who are greatly in Arrears, having promised considerable Payments, which are daily coming in, we are earnestly desirous that the Subject of Mr. Hollond's advices may be kept a Secret, lest the Knowledge of them should have any ill effect upon our Affairs.— We shall wait your reply before we issue any orders to Ingeram or Jamelcotah— Any force you may be able to spare beyond the numbers requisite for those two places, may be directed to proceed at once to Ellaor.

We

127 Fort St. George 20th Janry 1781

We are,

Masulipatam
5th Janry 1781

Gentlemen,

Your most obt. hble Servants.

(signd) James Hodges.
Vice Council

True Copy
Chas Maxtone
Secy.

Agreed, that the following Letter be written to Capt: Hughes, Commanding His Majes: Ship Sea Horse, in reply to his of the 18th Inst.

Charles Hughes Esqr.
Commander of His Majesty's Ship, Sea Horse.

Sir.

We have been favored with your Letter of the 18th Inst. wherein you acquaint us, that His Majesty's Ship under your Command is in so bad a situation, that you cannot comply with the request, which hath been earnestly made by you, for the assistance of the Sea Horse, in drawing those resources, which we seriously stand in need of, from our Northern Settlements.

To Capt. Hughes, holding him answerable for not lending the Sea Horse in the present exigency

In granting a Fleet for the protection of the Trade & Possessions of the East India Company, His Majesty's most gracious intentions were carried, not only to the preservation of their Trade, but also, to the aid, which in times of war, his Ships might essentially yield, to their respective Presidencies. In this light, the different Naval Commanding Officers, have considered the nature of the Service in these Seas, - and

aid

in

in this light, by a prompt & an obliging acquiescence in our Requests, hath Admiral Sir Edward Hughes at all times manifested his attention to the Interests of our Employers.

The situation in which the Carnatic is at present, - and our absolute want of money for even the payment of our Troops, might, we should have hoped, have led you to have deferred the prosecution of your voyage to Bombay for ten or fifteen days; In which space of time, - you would have brought us the Supplies, the failure of which must inevitably plunge us into difficulties of the most alarming nature.

In pointing out to You the exigency of public affairs - and in soliciting Your assistance, as of the last importance to us, considering the difficulties in which we are involved, - We have done every thing that hath lain within us, as the Government of a place of so much Consequence to the nation. Should, the result of your refusal, - be detrimental to the Interests or Situation of the English in these Parts, we shall exonerate ourselves from every kind of blame, - and however reluctantly, establish the responsibility upon you, as we shall fully explain to the Commander in Chief of His Majesty's Squadron in India. — We are

Sir,

Fort St. George 20th Jany 1701

Sir,

Your most ob.t hble Servants.

Chas. Smithe.

&c. Select Committee.

Fort St. George
20th Jany 1701

Pres.t Report of his Conference w.t the Capts. of the Indiamen

The President acquaints the Committee, that conformably to their desire, he had conferred with the respective Commanders of the Company's Ships, now lying in the road: That they one & all with the utmost alacrity, and with a Zeal for the Company's Interest, which will at all times redound to their greatest honor most chearfully agreed, to employ their several Ships in any such way, or upon any such station, as Government should think proper to point out to them, as beneficial to the publick Service; That he had in Consequence recommended to them, so to divide their Force, as that one Division might be sent to the Northward for Provisions, & the other be employed to the Southward to cooperate with Sir Eyre Coote, & to afford Shelter, & Protection to the small Vessels which should be sent from hence with the grain, & other Stores for the uses of the Army; That these Gentlemen had accordingly deliberated together, and resolved, that the Earl of Dartmouth, Grosvenor & Rochford under the Command of the Senior Commander, (Capt. Thompson) should have the Southern and the Neptune, & Belmont, under the Command of Capt. Scott the Northern Station and

The

130 Fort St. George 20th Janry 1701

The Committee are fully sensible of the Zeal & alacrity which has been manifested by the above Gentlemen, in wishing to Contribute every assistance in their power, to the general defence, and as such Conduct must unavoidably be injurious to their own Private affairs, the Committee conceive it is but rendering them common justice, to recommend them in the most favorable terms to the Court of Directors.

In Consequence of the President's report, Resolved, that the following Letters be written.

To Captain David Thomsone,
or the Senior Captain for the time being, of the Fleet,
now or ever to the Southward.

Sir,

Having for good and sufficient reasons thought it expedient that the Honble Company's Ships Care of Dartmouth, Grosvenor and Rochford, now in these Roads, should proceed to the Southward, for the purpose of Cooperating with the army under the Command of Lieut. Gen.l Sir Eyre Coote, we are to desire that the following instructions may be attentively carried into execution.

We appoint you as the Senior Captain, Commodore of the Fleet, and as such shall expect that all orders you shall give, be obeyed by the respective officers under your Command.

Your first station is to be at Cokolymada, where all Vessels dispatched from hence with grain and

Fort St. George 20th Janry 1701

and Provisions are to stop until your arrival at which place you probably will receive orders from Genl. Sir Eyre Coote.

To Comr Thompson with his Instructions

Should there be no orders from the Genl. on the arrival of the Ships at Cokolymadu, you are in that case to proceed to your second Station, which is Coujemere, from whence you are not to move on any account whatsoever, excepting Danger from an Enemy of superior force, or that you shall receive orders from the General so to do.

Such Seamen as may be appointed to act with the army, are not to attempt any operation on the Coast, without the orders of the General.—

Each Seaman so appointed is to be armed with one brace of Pistols, one Cutlas, and one small hatchet or Pole axe for demolishing Boats, houses &c. and while on Shore, the draughts from each Ship, are to be under the Command of Capt: Geo: Taswell.

The Chief & Council at Cuddalore is hereby, that Subordinacy being in any kind of danger, have our orders to load on board the Ships under your Command; such Goods & Effects of the Company & Individuals, as you conveniently can receive. And likewise to withdraw themselves & Garrison, — should such a step be absolutely necessary. We particularly desire therefore that you pay the strictest regard to every requisition that is made to you on those heads, by the Chief & Council.

The orders you will receive, will be either from us the Select Committee, or from Genl. Sir Eyre Coote. Such Orders

 Fort St. George 20th Janry 1781

orders therefore you will implicitly obey, so as best to answer the purposes of the Service you are now employed upon.

Care shall be taken that swift Sailing Vessels are so stationed, both to the N. ward of this Port, and to that of Pondecherry, that you may be advised with the utmost expedition possible, of the appearance of any Ship or Ships of the Enemy. The certainty of which or of any danger to your Ships in any respect, will on due Consultation with the other Captns of your Fleet, so regulate your Conduct, as in the emergency, shall appear to you proper & necessary.

The following are the Signals of Communication between You and the Army. viz.t

When at Anchor at Cokelymadw or Conjemere, You are as Commodore to keep a red broad Pendant hoisted at the Main top Gallant Mast head; which will be answered by the Army by an union Flag on the most conspicuous place.

Should suspected Ships make their appearance you are to hoist a Dutch Ensign at the Fore top Gallant Mast head;— Should they prove Enemies a White Flag at the Fore top Gallant Mast head— On the contrary should you discover them to be Friends, you are to hoist an English Ensign at the Fore top Gallant Mast head.

At any time that you have Intelligence to

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to communicate to the Army, you will hoist
a Swedish Ensign at the Fore top Gallant
Mast head.
Given at Fort St. George this 20th Day of Janry 1701
Signed by order of the President & Select Comme.
R. J. Sulivan Sec.

To Captain James Todd,
Commander of the Rochford.
Sir,

We have thought proper to resolve that three
of the Honble Company's Ships now in this Road, shall
proceed to the Southward for certain purposes,
which we have communicated to Capt. Thomson
of the Dartmouth, as the Senior Captain for the time
being, whom we have appointed Commodore; & to
whom you are to receive all such orders, as
it may be found expedient to give, during the
Service, on which you are now to be employed.
Given at Fort St. George this 20th day of Janry 1701 &
signed by order of the President & Select Committee.
(The above to each of the other Captains)

To the Capt. of the Indiamen, lo put themselves under Capt. Thomson's order.

To William Cunning Esqr
Chief & the Council at Cuddalore.
Gentlemen,

Captn. Thomson of the Company's
Ship Dartmouth, or the Senior Captn. for the time
being, will deliver to you this Letter, & will at the
same time communicate to you, the nature of
the Service on which he is employed, & the orders
which he has received from us in Consequence

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To Cuddalore, to embark Company's Goods &c.a on the Dartmouth, shd it be necessary to withdraw the Garrisons &c.

We have directed the Fleet to call at Cuddalore, lest that Subordinacy should be in any immediate danger. And in the event of its being expedient to withdraw the Garrisons, we have particularly enjoin'd Capt.n Thomson, to receive on board his Ships, all such Goods & Effects, both of the Company and Individuals, as he can possibly find room for; as well as the Inhabitants who may chuse to remove, both Company's Servants & others.—

Altho' we think it necessary to be thus cautious for your safety;—we yet are desirous that so important a Settlement as Cuddalore, should not be abandoned like the last extremity. To your prudence, who are the Spot, must be the best Judges,—we leave the ultimate decision of this affair. You will only be vigilant, in keeping open a Communication with the Lt. Genl. Sir Eyre Coote, whose Operations in the Field, to the benefit of whose advice will enable you to take that Line, which, for the Interests of your Employers, you shall think it expedient to pursue.

We are,

Gentlemen,

Your affectionate Friends &c.

Fort St. George
20th. Janry 1781

Char.s Smith
&c.a Select Committee

To Captain Robert Scott,
Commander of the Ship, Neptune,
Sir,

Having thought proper to resolve that

135. Fort St. George 20th Janry 1781

That the Company's Ships Neptune & Belmont, should proceed to the Northward — we are to direct, that you with the other Ships under your Command as the Senior Capt. whom we have appointed Commodore, do make the best of your way to Vizagapatam, & there return to Masulipatam, at both which places, you will receive such orders from the Chiefs & Councils, as the public service hath rendered it expedient for us to give them.

To Comr. Scott his Instructions.

We have reason to expect that Money & Provisions will be in readiness for you to take on board at those Settlements, — and perhaps some Lascars from Masulipatam.

Such Vessels as may be coming to this Coast with supplies of grain or other articles, we are to desire may be protected; — so far as such protection can be afforded to them without danger, — and without any material detention to your Ships.

As the object for which you are now sent to the Northward, is of the greatest importance to our affairs, — We desire that no time may be lost, in complying with the requisitions which shall be made to you by the Chiefs & Councils for the purposes aforesaid. — and in returning to this Presidency, — from whence, we are in hopes you will take in time, to join the Fleet ordered to the Southward, to co-operate with the army under Lt. Genl. Sir Eyre Coote.

We are informed, that a Privateer of

Mon

136. Fort St. George 20th Janry 1781

of 18 Guns, supposed to be accompanied by one or two others of greater force has been cruizing for some time past, on the Northern parts of this Coast, & that she has actually captured some Vessels, coming from Bengal. Should you on your arrival at Vizagapatame, have reason to suppose, that the Ships under your command are of sufficient force, - and that the Privateers, may be attacked by them to advantage in such case, recommend that you take such measures for the accomplishment of so desireable an end, as to you shall appear proper. The obstruction given to the trade to & from Bengal, being of material inconvenience to our affairs.

Given at Fort St. George this 20th day of Janry 1781

& Signed by order of the Govr & Select Committee

Mr. James Hodges.

Provisional Chief & the Council at Masulipatame

Gentlemen,

We have receivd your Letters of the 31st Ult. 5th & 6th Inst.

mo

On the 23rd. of this Month, we mean to dispatch the Company's Ships Neptune and Belmont, to Vizagapatame, & from thence to return to Masulipatame if necessary. We have now therefore only to desire, that you immediately communicate to the Chief & Council at Vizagapatame, the situation you may be in, with respect to the Supplies you may have in readiness for

To Messrs. The Neptune & Belmont to call if necessary for the Treasure

mo

rec'd

read

137 Fort St. George 20th Janry 1781

for these Ships as well as to the Batt.n of Sepoys before ordered, - that their calling at your Settlements, or their returning to this Presidency may be regulated accordingly. Vizt

Gentlemen,

Your affectionate Friends.

Chas Smith
&c. Select Committee

Fort St. George
20 Janry 1781

To Mr. John Turing
Resident Pole Gangam

Sir.

I am directed by the President & Select Committee to acknowledge the receipt of your several undated the 10th 18th 23rd & 25th Nov.r & 5th 14th 15th 17th 22nd & 28th Dec.r

To Gyanjam enclosing Instructions to Capt.n Scott.

And to acquaint you that they highly approve of the measures you have taken for furnishing the Troops from Bengal with Provisions &c.a in their March towards your Settlement.

Enclosed you will receive Copy of the Instructions given to Capt.n Scott of the Neptune, by which you will be guided, should he arrive bro.t to call at Ganjam, Inter alia,

Vizt.

Fort St. George
20th Janry 1781

Your most Ob.t Servants.

R.t J. Sullivan
Secry

Read Letters from the Bengal Cadets who arriv'd in the last Fleet.

Do

13d Fort St. George 20th Janry 1781

To the Honble Charles Smith Esqr

Gov.r &c &c &c

Honble Sir,

Having been informed that the Ships in which we came from England - and have now to Bengal, are now to be employ'd in a different Service, We beg leave to represent to you, that being thrown ashore at this Place without Money, and without Friends, and being subject to a considerable expence to support ourselves even on the most economical plan, We have no resource, but in the hope, that as our Stay here is involuntary on our part, You will be pleas'd to order that We be put on the same allowance as the Madras Cadets, until We have an opportunity of proceeding to the Settlement for which we are designed - and in the meantime, We beg leave to make an Offer of our Services either in the Field, or in this Garrison, which ever may be thought most expedient - We are with the highest Respect,

Honble Sir

Your obt Hble Servants

Fort St. George
20th Janry 1781

(Signd) Henry Donnell.
Geo. Pine.
Wm. Evans.
T. Atkinson.
Edwd C. P. Donnell.
Henry Atkinson.
Wm Stewart

Order That the like Allowance be given to these Gentlemen, that is made to the Cadets of this Establishment. —

Complied with.

139 Fort St. George, 20th Jany 1781

20th The following Letters were this Day written to Masulipatam & Vizagapatam. viz

To James Henry Casamaijor Esqr

Chief & the Council at Vizagapatam,

Gentlemen,

I am commanded by the Honble the Govr & Select Committee to furnish you with the accompanying Copy of Instructions, given to Captain Scott of the Company's Ship Neptune, who now proceeds to the Northward, for the purpose of receiving such supplies as you may have prepared in readiness for this Presidency. The Belmont, Captain Gamage, accompanies Capt Scott, & is under his orders.

Enclosed are Copies of the Cyphers which the Committee have been pleased to resolve shall be used by you, on matters of Consequence, both with them, & with the Commander in Chief of the Army. I am,

Gentlemen,

Your most obt Hble Servant

P. L. Sullivan

Secry

To Vizagapatam two Gentlemen forwarded thither — inclosing a Copy of the Cyphers

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The same to Mr James Hodges & Council Masulipatam)

Do to Masulipatam.

21st Received the following Letter from the Commander in Chief.

To the Honble the President & Select Committee

Fort St. George.

Gentlemen,

On the Morning of the 17th Instant I sent

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21st from the Mount and encampd at Tammeram being distant from thence on the road to Chingleput about 9 Miles - Experienced on this March no other difficulties than those created by the Insufficiency of the Carriage for the Camp Equipage Provisions & Military Stores: some part of the first we were absolutely obliged to leave behind, because we had not the means of carrying it, and that being together with the Rice (which for the same reasons I could not carry with me) recommended to the care of the Officer sent from the Garrison to the Mount. I hope they have been conveyd to Fort St George in safety.

Brown Sir Eyre Coote marches from the Mount - arrives at Chingleput - complains of the want of the Battalion

I marchd from Tammeram on the 10th and encampd at Shiringummum being 12½ Miles - We had again a striking proof of the Insufficiency of our Carriage - having been obliged to submit to the loss of several Tents and some Military Stores from not being able to bring them along with us.

On this days March a Body of the Enemy's horse, from three to four Thousand, appeard on the left of our line, having posted themselves on the opposite side of a Tank a little beyond General Smith's Encampment - from whence they attempted to annoy us with Rockets, by one of which a Seapoy belonging to the Cavalry of the advanced guard was wounded in the

arm

Fort St. George January 1781

21st anw— I ordered out a Flanking Party with two Field Pieces which soon dispersed them— They however hung upon our left Flank during the rest of our March but at too great a distance either to receive or do hurt— By a Deserter who is come over from that Party this Evening we find that our Cannon killed two Men and wounded one More which he says can't live.

This Morning marched from thence gunning and have the pleasure to acquaint you, that, after visiting the Fort of Chingleput in which only 15 days provisions is left, about 11 Oclock A.M. the advanced guard crossed the Pallar without the smallest opposition. The Main body of the army crossed in a due course of time, but the rear Guard owing to the very bad state of the Carriage Cattle did not come in till Evening— and then I was obliged to send some Lascars, Coolies & Bullocks from the Camp to assist in bringing part of the Baggage out of the bed of the River.— The General had conditions of the Bhatto and Carriage Cattle, and two of the Regiments of Cavalry on the rear Guard being much fatigued from the very tedious Marches they have had with the Baggage, has rendered a very halting Encampment absolutely necessary, in order to give the whole a days rest and refreshment, without which

D

142. Fort St. George January 1781

21st I could not have a hope of carrying half the Baggage or Provisions for the army with me another March.

Now the four days Rice which each Man brought with himself is expended, the Inconveniencies I foresaw are the score of Provisions before I left the Mount begin to show themselves. The debilitated state of the Carriage Cattle is of itself sufficient to convince you of the impossibility of my bringing Rice from the Sea in so short a time as either to preserve the appearance of want which stares me in the Face, or to expedite my operations towards the relief of Vellore & Arnee. Forty draft four days Rice for the Army, which is all I can conveniently carry from the Sea which is 19 Miles distant from hence, would occupy four days. I should expend an equal quantity of the Supply, and from the Fatigue the Cattle would unavoidably undergo be rendered less capable of prosecuting the Service I am going upon than if I were to pursue my March with the Rice I have already got, and which is four days including the Supply I sent before me to Chinglput & which I have drawn from thence.

I have therefore determined to proceed with the Rice I have in Store, and to lessen as much as possible the Burthen arising from the number of followers I have directed part of my own Camp Equipage to be sent to Chinglput, and as much as can be dispensed with by the other Gentlemen of the Army. My next March

No 23. Fort St. George 4 January 1781

21st will be to Saringuley, where I do not expect to meet with much Difficulty in taking possession, but I am afraid I shall not find in it the Quantity of Grain which we had information Hyder's people had collected there, as it is now said that upon hearing of the March of the Army he had sent Bullocks and carried it away. If any however should be found or speedily collected into it, I shall in hopes of gaining a Day's Rice leave as many of the followers as can be prevailed on to stay behind. A precaution which promises to secure to me an Additional Day's Provision for the Troops in the present very Critical Situation of Affairs is certainly deserving of Attention - as that alone may prove the means of enabling me to surmount the many Difficulties I have to encounter.

Some Firing has been heard to day at Wandewash which is a proof to me that it is yet safe, but it is so closely surrounded by the Enemy that I can get no Account from the Officer in Command Lieut. Flint. I trust that I shall yet arrive in time to save the Place.

By all the Reports that have reached me I am given to understand that Hyder means to try a Battle - I sincerely hope that it may so happen, as I think notwithstanding his Superiority in Numbers, I shall be able to give him a hearty Drubbing - If on the Contrary he avoids a General Action which there is too much Reason to believe, from the Conduct he has always observed in fighting against us, he will do, attends only to harrassing us - I shall be obliged to move the Army towards the Sea in order to get Subsis-

-tence

Fort St. George January 1781

21st tence from the Shipping. This I confess I shall do with reluctance as it will carry with it too much the appearance of retreating from the Enemy. However I must submit to the inconvenience and all the bad consequences which may attend it, as I do not find in such Emergency I shall be able to secure Subsistence for the Troops by any other means. The Article of Provisions is of the utmost a matter of the most serious Consideration, as if I cannot feed the Army, they will soon disperse and leave Hyder in as complete Conquest, as if obtained by a Total Defeat.

I have heard of the Arrival of the Vessels with the Provisions at Cochaly Roads but have not yet sent them any orders but shall tomorrow, when it is probable I may direct them to proceed as low down as Pattas

I have the honor to be,
Gentlemen,
Your most ob.t Servant.
Eyre Coote.

Camp, Southern Bank
of the Callar near
Stinglepunt 19th Jany 1781

This day the Committee came to the following Resolution —

Allowance to be made to the Slaves when they are on Shipboard

The President and Select Committee, in consideration of the Extra Provisions, which Black Officers, and Servants, from their Cast and Prejudices & Casts, are obliged to lay in, when they embark; and in order to enable them

21th thereto contribute to the Subsistance of their Families, when the necessity of the Service requires their going on board of Ships, have thought proper to issue the following order; That, to every Peon, Bandear, Naigue, Drummer & Sepoy of the Circar Batts. who Embark for Service in the Carnatic, or for any of the Presidencies - there shall be given as a Gratuity, (and not to be Reducted from their pay) the sum of two Months Pay and the same to the Carnatic Batts. whose services may be wanted, by Sea, at any of the other Presidencies, or in the Circars

Fort, 21st January 1781

Dispatched the following Letters

Mr. James Hodges

& the Council at Masulipatam,

Gentlemen,

In reply to Mr. Hodges's letter to the President of the 11th Inst. I am directed to express to You the concern of the Select Committee, at the alarming desertion, which was nearly taking place in the Batt.n of Sepoys, commanded by Capt. Thishyre, & at the same time to convey to You their approbation, of the prudent measures which were adopted, when the Batt.n had evinced their disinclination to embark. The enclosed is Copy of a resolution of the Committee

To Masulipatam encloss. a Copy of the above resolution respect. the Allowance to be made Sepoys when they Embark

146 Fort St. George January 1781

21st Committee on the Subject of embarking Troops
which You will be pleased to regulate your con-
duct by. In no instance, however, is compulsion
to be used. I am;

Gentlemen,

Your most Obt. hble Servt.

R. T. Sullivan Secy

Fort St George
21st. Janry 1781

To Lieut. Genl. Sir Eyre Coote K.B.
Commander in Chief of the Forces in
India

Sir,

We have the honor to enclose | You, Ofer
of the orders we have thought it necessary to is-
sue to the Captains of the Europe Ships, now to be em-
ployed to the Southward & to the Northward &
Our Chief Engineer has informed
us, that Ensign Bruce assistant Engineer who
is now at Cuddalore, was some time since ordered
to that Settlement with Pioneers for the demoli-
tion of the Houses at Condicherry — and that
he has been furnished with the necessary in-
structions for that Service. This we think
it necessary you should be acquainted with.

The Fleet of Indiamen for the Southward
will sail agreeably to their orders on the 23
or 24th Inst. under the Command of Capt.
David Thomson of the Earl of Dartmouth & the
Fleet for the Northward will sail the same
day under the order of Captain Scott.

We

To Sir Eyre Coote,
and Col. Pearse of the orders
to the Captains of the Europe
Ships

147. Fort St. George 21st January 1781

21st We are with great esteem,
Sir,
Your most Obedient Servants
Chas. Smith &c.
Select Committee

Fort St. George
21st January 1781

22nd Received the following Letters —

The Honble Charles Smith Esqre
Chief & Select &c.
Fort St. George —

Honble Sir,

By advices received Yesterday from Negore I am informed that Bajeew surrendered at discretion the 11th Inst. — and that our loss consisted only of Sir John Gordon, a drummer, & a few Sepoys — and, that Sir Edward Hughes has destroyed Hyder's Fleet on his passage to Bombay — The list is as follows — at Callicut, one 26 Gun Frigate taken, one 22 Do. Do. burned Shore. At Mangalore — One 10 Gun Ketch taken 2 — 30 Gun Ships and one 12 Gun Ketch burnt. one 10 Gun Galliwat sunk — one 16 Gun Snow one Ketch and 7 Galliwats drove on Shore, most of them cast — The Admiral lost 20 Officers & about 30 or 40 Men — he has also landed one Captain, 5 Lieuts & 100 Marines at Tellicherry, and advised Major Abingdon to continue there; since which the Enemy have decreased in number and activity — The Coote Sloop sailed from hence Yesterday to Negore in consequence of my hearing yesterday from Mr. Rudlerdow

That

Letter Sundries, with Letter of the Admirals destroying Hyder's Fleet on the West Coast — and of the Surrender of Bajeew

No. Fort St. George January 5th 1801

22d That Capt. Scott had been obliged to put back to Tranquebar by Contrary Winds & Currents — he had embarked on the 8th inst. and the Coote was dispatched to the Presidency when Mr. Rudlestone's Letter arrived — I have the honor to be, Honble Sir

Your most ob.t Hble Servant
I.a Daniel

Cuddalore
19 Janry 1801

To The Honble Charles Smith Esq.re
Chief & Gov.r &.c Select Committee of
Fort St. George

Honble Sir & Sirs,

We have received your letter under date the 12th inst. which did not come to hand until the 17th inst. and we have the honor to reply thereto.

From Masulipatam on the Coast of Ajmir. Warning of the Detention from Capt. Shepherd's Battalion, on being ordered to embark.

The necessary orders for Warning the Batt.ns of this District to their Alarms have directed were issued without delay.

The next matter which the letter offered to our consideration, was your order to embark a Batt.n from this District, immediately to the Presidency. Before upon this Subject, we beg leave to your attention to a circumstance which we esteem it our duty to point out to you in the present situation of affairs, and happen in these parts, that not being aware by You may render the execution of

22. may some time or other commit to our Chs
unadviseable perhaps, at the particular juncture
when those orders arrive; the present interrup-
tion of our Communication with the Presidency, where-
by the time in which we could inform you of
any sudden turn of affairs in these parts and
receive your orders thereupon, is so much lengthen-
ed that it very much encreases the probability
of such a contingency as we have just pointed out
and indeed, this Contingency has in some Mea-
sure already happened upon the occasion of
the orders to which we are now replying; in-
somuch that in deliberating thereon it appe-
ared to us a matter of previous Consideration
whether it would be for the good of affairs to
proceed in the execution of them. The Intelligence
we lately received from Mr. Holland of which
you have already been advised; The Conduct
of the Bombay Manager in the Guntoor Dis-
trict, which, to say the least of it has not been justi-
fyed who is raising Troops there; these cir-
cumstances together with the state of affairs
in our own Districts, where, as the Business
of the Collections will soon be taken in hand,
it is necessary we should appear to have a res-
pectable strength, gave occasion to the question
that was agitated respecting the expediency
of your orders for embarking a Battn. from
hence, by which our force would be so consider-
ably

29th ably diminished, altho' we were by no means
Convinced of the propriety of the measure as
it respects the actual situation of affairs here,
yet your orders relative thereto being expressed
with a great degree of Earnestness; your motives
for those orders being unknown to us, and the
exercise of any discretion on our part not being
expressly permitted, altho' we think it is implied,
we judged upon the whole we should act least
exceptionably to Comply with the orders; and
that was accordingly resolved upon.

Having determined this point, our attention was
turned in the next place, to provide the necessary
Conveyances. Two Vessels we had Freighted for
transporting Cattle were at hand for this pur-
pose, one of them being in the road, and the
Storekeeper informed us, would be ready to sail
in the Course of two days, which vessel would
contain 300 Men; the other we then expected
hourly from Meadepollam, and which
might have been prepared in the same time
to carry the remainder of the Battn. Having
ascertained this matter, which appeared
to us necessary to be done before your intention
should be made known, that afterwards
they might be carried into execution without
loss of time, for Delays we apprehended
might throw difficulties in our way, we
addressed a Letter to Capt. Cheshyre, Copy of

22.d which (No.1) comes enclosed, desiring him to propose to his Batt.n the option of going upon this Service; in addition to the reasons there alledged for pitching on Capt.n Shrubsyle's Batt.n we had others which not being material for his information, we in our Letter to him suppressed; we shall lightly touch upon them here. The Commandant of his Batt.n is just promoted to that rank and we understand in reward of his Zeal, activity & Success, in pushing forward the business of the Embarkation of Sepoys from hence; the Sepoys of this Batt.n were believed to be much attached to Capt.n Shrubsyle and the Grounds of this Belief, gave it a Colour of great probability.

Having addressed the above letter to Capt.n Shrubsyle, on the 8.th Inst.t, we received his answer (No.2) the next Morning, expressing the readiness of his people to engage in the service proposed to them; we had not any suspicion of the reality of their Sentiments as expressed upon this occasion; nor could we indeed reasonably have entertained any; the Service was proposed to them, not in the shape of an order, but of an option, which held out to them the prospect of an opportunity of distinguishing themselves; the satisfaction however we received from the knowledge, as we then thought it, of their

Sentiments

152. Fort St George January 1701

22d. Sentiments was but of a very short Continuance, for the next Morning Captain Chesbyre made a verbal report to Mr. Hodges nearly to the same effect with that contained in his (Capt: Chesbyre's) Letter (No 3) which did not come to hand until after we had dispatched one to him (No 4.) written in Consequence of the above verbal report to Mr. Hodges; Capt: Chesbyre afterwards sent some further account of the matter in a letter to Mr. Hodges Copy of which (No 5) is likewise enclosed for your information. The Desertion of such numbers and in so short a time, as appears from the Letters above referred to, was too plain an indication of the disposition of the meer Portuguese as in any doubt about it; indeed have believed, without so striking a Proof thereof, more especially after the recent declarations to their Officers of contrary Sentiments, that so great and so general a repugnance to the measure could have prevailed amongst them: Having adopted the resolution explained in our Letter to Capt: Chesbyre (No 4.) that that Battalion should not be employd in the service you required, it remained for us to Consider, whether it would be prudent to advise at present to make the experiment

Fort St. George, January 1701

22d experiment with any other Batty in the Distric
The reasons for attempting it remained the
same as before, namely, your orders expressin
an earnest desire that it might be effected. The
arguments for not engaging further therein
were briefly these, First, the very little pros-
pect we had that it would be attended with
Success. Secondly, the ill Consequences of an
unsuccessful attempt, some of them were, the
certain loss of numbers by Desertion, and that
not only from our Batty, but probably from
them all; the loss of the recruits which formed
a considerable part of the strength of each
Batty would doubtless be great, the manifest
injury to Discipline; the operation of such
an unsuccessful attempt on the minds of the
People both in those Districts & in the Countries
that lay round us; in those Districts, weakening
us by discovering a want of attachment in those
on whom we rely for our safety; in the neigh-
bouring Countries, inviting from the same
Consideration, the treacherous attempts of
those, who are already laying in wait for
opportunities, and too much inclined to
ecert themselves in undermining us; Thirdly,
the weak condition in which we should be left
Should the attempt prove successful; and the to
at a time, when we cannot but apprehend an
invasion may be impending; and when

exclusive

54 Fort St George January 1781

22d exclusive of this Consideration, there is reason
Sufficient from the appearances in the
neighbouring Vicary of Gundoor; where the
Manager is busy in Collecting troops, both
Horse and Infantry, to keep upon our guard;
and to ground enough, to dissuade us from
Sending away so considerable a part of our
Strength. The last argument we shall men-
tion, against a perseverance in the above
measure, and which had great weight
with us, was, that it would certainly have
had an effect to the disadvantage of the
Collections - even whether the attempt
had been successful or not; in the latter
case, this requires no explanation: in the
former, the Poligars seeing so great a part
of our strength taken away, would have
relapsed into their fears, from the appre-
hension of danger, and we could not have
hoped much from their exertions: The
Zemindars might have been encouraged
to hope, that we should not have it in our
power to enforce the demands upon them
and so be led on to Delays and re[illegible]
sings. Having thus stated what occurs
to us upon the Subject we hope that our
Sentiments upon it to decline any further
Step therein which was founded upon the
maturest deliberation, will meet with your
approbation

22. approbation. We pursued therein what our Judgement dictated to us as the properest Conduct for the occasion.

Capt. Shershyre & Capt. O'Hara having represented that the above propo: sition for embarking the Sepoys seemed to have caused a great agitation amongst them and further desertion was to be ap: prehended we judged it proper to publish the resolution of not employing them on this Subject in the other Garrisons and amongst those in the field under Capt: Bridges, to prevent any ill effects from it there, and we have the pleasure to inform you that their fears are quieted and the desertion is at an end. — Having in a former part of this letter alluded to a Trans: duct in the Carnatic. Managers which we represented to be at least not friendly, we will here explain it — to have done so in its former place, would have too much broken the thread of our Narrative. The Renter of Beiry complained to us not long ago of some disturbances in his farm, + fomented by a Seminadar of the Gundoor Circar; they rose at length to such a height we judged it expedient to remonstrate with the Manager of that Circar, against his Connivance at such a Conduct, and rejected

St. Fort St. George January 5th 1781

22d requested he would give such orders as might effectually put a stop to the Mischief; notwithstanding which, we could obtain no redress, and we have been obliged within these few days past, to send an officer and party of Sepoys to protect the Country, they have driven the Invaders off; and sent in a few prisoners who were taken by them. A slight disturbance has likewise been raised in the Nizampatanam farm, by an Aberrasedar who possesses influence in that Country; a Party of Sepoys have been sent to quiet it, & we hope they will effect it without much trouble.

We are respectfully
Worthy Sir & Sirs,
Your most obedt Humble Servants,
" Ja" Hodges.
" Jolin B. Boileau
" Tho" Barnard
" Alex" Pringle

Masulipatanam
4th January 5781

To Captain Rob" Chesshyre;
Commanding the Troops in
Masulipatanam.

Sir

We have been directed by the Hon"ble Bres" Coast Select Committee to encourage our endeavors to prevail with one of the Bat"ns of this District to embark immediately for

157 Fort S.t George January 1701

22.d for the Presidency on the first Conveyance which may offer expressing their hopes, that from the Success experienced in the late attempts of the same kind at this place their expectations upon this occasion will not be disappointed. We esteem it a piece of justice to your merit which shewed itself conspicuously upon the occasion above alluded to, as well as to your Station as the Senior Officer in the District to offer to you the first Option with respect to the Service above proposed particularly as we entertain a flattering opinion that the Sepoys of your Batt.n will tho' your exertions without much difficulty be prevailed upon, to conform to what is desired. You will please to explain to them that it is by no means intended or wished by the Court & Select Committee, that any persons should be desired to offer their Services upon this occasion, who are not previously well inclined thereto and that they disclaim every idea of Constraint or Compulsion as they could not expect any useful Exertions from Persons so influenced to engage in their Service. The same indulgence as was granted to the Companies which embarked in October will be allowed to those who may offer themselves on this occasion. We have to request you will please to give us an early intimation of the Success with which your endeavors are likely to be attended, that no time may be lost in taking our further measures

158 Fort St. George 4 January 1781

22d measures. Dear Sir,

Masulipatam
8th January 1781

Your most obt. Servants
" James Hodges
" John Belli Boileau
" Thomas Barnard
" Alexander Pringle

True Copy
Alex. Pringle
Secy

To James Hodges Esqr
Acting Chief &c Council at Masulipatam

Gentlemen,

I have received your letter of the 8th Inst. & have the pleasure to inform you that my Batt. have chearfully expressed a readiness to embark whenever ordered.

I am with respect,
Gentlemen,
Your most obt Servant
(signed) Robt. Chesshyre

Masulipatam
9th January 1781

True Copy
Alex. Pringle
Secy

To James Hodges Esqr
Acting Chief &c Council, Masulipatam.

Gentlemen,

I am sorry to inform you that the Sepoys of my Batt. have manifested the

159 Fort St George January 1781

22d am apprehensive from the humour the Batn seems to be in, the greatest part of them will go off unless Countermanded from the Service they are at present in orders to embark on.

Masulipatam
6th Jany 1781

I am with respect,
Gentlemen,
Your most obd Servant
(signed) Robt Cheshyre

True Copy
Alex. Pringle
Secy

To Capt. Robt Cheshyre,
Commanding the Troops in Masulipatam

Sir,

Mr Rodges has laid before us a verbal report, respecting the Conduct of your Batn now under orders to embark for the Presidency which he informs us, he received from you this Morning and is to this Effect, that in the Interval since the orders of the 31st Ult Council have been explained to them relative to their embarking for the Presidency which is not more than twenty four hours, nine Gentlemen, and among the them several new Commissioned officers, in some of whom you even reposed Confidence had deserted, That from so extraordinary a Behaviour, you were of opinion that it would not be expedient to persevere in the measure of sending your Batn to the Presidency as you could not, considering what had happened undertake to say that any part of it was to be depended upon as willing to go, and of Course that unless the orders were recalled a

further

No. Fort St. George January 5th 1781

22d further Desertion was to be apprehended.

We are greatly concerned that you should have been so much disappointed in the Construction of those Sentiments as explained to us in your Letter of yesterday, But as it is now very manifest that they are exceedingly averse to the Proposition that was made to them, which was never intended in any shape to be imposed upon them, and their Services cannot therefore be desired, we wish you to lose no time in informing them that it is resolved they shall not be employ'd upon this occasion. We are, Sir

Your most Obedient Servants
" James Hodges
" John Peter Boileau
" Thomas Barnard
" Alexander Pringle

Masulipatam
10th Jany 5th 81

True Copy
Alex. Pringle
Secry

To James Hodges Esqre
Provisional Chief of Masulipatam &c
Sir,

Thirteen more Topoys being reported to me Deserted since my arrival in the Fort, I have (from the Conversation that passed between us this Morning) taken upon me to acquaint my Brother that as I perceive from the great Desertion that hath happened since last night, they have deceived me in their seeming acquiescence to embark and

&c.

161 Fort St. George 4 January 1781

22d, of Course are not well disposed towards the service they are called upon to perform; that to the inv: Sentiments of the Board the Prest. and Select Committee will be by no means answered in their going with Reluctance and therefore their services upon this occasion will not be required — I am, &c

Upon motion Ordered that the Secretary

Masulipatam
11th Jany 1781

(signed) Robt. Chesshyre Secy

The following additional Instructions were ordered to be sent to Capt. Scott & Thomson —

Commodore David Thomson,

Sir,

In addition to the orders already given to you I am directed by the Prest. & Select Committee, to signify to you their pleasure, that although nothing is to be attempted on shore, without previous orders from the Commander in Chief of the army, yet they are desirous that every prudent exertion may be made to annoy any of the Enemy's Vessels that may be on the Coast &c. And further, they are pleased to direct, that none of the Officers or Men, now sent on board the Fleet as Marines who were in Arcot when it Capitulated to Hyder Ally Cawn, - shall upon any account what soever be landed, as such a step would be a direct violation of the articles, under the sanction of which, they surrendered that Garrison

To Commodore Thomson, with additional Instructions — and enclosing Copy of private Signals —

you

yet

off

Mar

162 Fort St. George January 1781

22d Garrison Enclosed is a Copy of Private Signals, established for this Fort - to prevent Ships coming into Negapatam Road - Jane

Sir,

Fort St. George
22nd Jany 1781

Your most humble Servant
R. T. Sullivan
Secry

The same to Capt. Geo. Farwell

Captain George Farwell,

Sir,

To Capt. Farwell appointed to command the Seamen landed from the Fleet with Instructions.

The Hon'ble the Pres't & Select Committee have been pleased to appoint you to the Command while on Shore of such Sailors as shall be landed from the Fleet now to be ready to sail to the Southward, and for which the following Instructions are to be your guidance.

You are to Command the debarkation and the operations after landing, agreeably to the orders of the Commander in Chief of the Army; each of your people being armed with a Brace of Pistols, a Sword and Pole Axe.

You are to bring off, or destroy, all Boats, or materials for Boat Building & Repairs - and all Timber Naval and Artillery Stores & Arms.

You are empowered to give rewards to all Boat and Catamaran Men, who will settle with their wives and families at Madras and to pay them for their Boats & Catamarans

All Boats belonging to the Company's except the European Ships, are to be under your

Directions

163 Fort St. George January 1781

22d directions.

Such orders as you shall receive from the Govt. Sir Eyre Coote, or from the Select Committee you are implicitly to obey Excepting when orders may be counter to each other. In which case, you will act in such manner as shall appear to you most conducive to the benefit of the pub: Sir Service.

Accompanying are Copies of Signals, appointed for the Fleet and Army.

Fort St. George 22nd day of January 1781

By order of the Govr and Select Committee

It being resolved to imbark some Soldiers and Recruits to act as Marines on board of the India: men now directed to proceed to the Northd and Southward. Orders were this day sent for them to be received on board.

Some Soldiers and Recruits to act as Marines on board the Indiamen

23d Received the following Letters.

To the Honble Charles Smith Esqre

Govr and Govr: &c: Select Committee.

Honble Sir & Sirs,

We have just received advice from the Resident at Ingeram, & Maddepollam, of the landing of a Party of French at Coringa- Copies of this advice do herewith enclosed- We hope that this party will prove to be only the Crews of the Privateers, which have lately infested the Bay- but as it may turn out otherwise, We have judged it expedient to

From Masulipatam 2 Letters. Copies of Letters &c. of a Party of French landing at Coringa.

164. Fort St. George January 1781

23d, to require Capt. Bridges, to march with the Detachment under his Command to the Neighbourhood of this place, - We shall not fail to advise you further thereof, as soon as we have it in our power.

We are with respect
Gentlemen,
Your most obt. Servants
.. James Hodges
.. John Peter Boileau
.. Thomas Barnard
.. Alex. Pringle

Masulipatam
17th. Jany 1781

To James Hodges Esqre
Chief &c. Council of Masulipatam
Gentlemen,

This is to advise you that there are several Vessels arrived at Coringa Road one large one shewing Danish Colours - this Morning early six armed Boats came ashore at Coringa having first boarded the Honble Company's Snow Concord and many other Vessels. We expect them up at the Factory every Hr. This is from Sherbet's Information

Injeram 15th Jany 81

Yours &c.
Alex. Pringle

To James Hodges Esq.
Provisional Chief &c. Council of Masulipatam

Yours obedient Servant
Signd William Hamilton

Gentlemen,

165 Fort St. George, January 1781

23d Gentlemen,

Since forwarding to you the Express in the Morning from Ingeram, I have had no further accounts from that Quarter. —

In case the Communication to the Northward by Land should be cut off for some days by the way of Ingeram, I have posted Tappy Peons from hence to Rajahmundry, to carry the Letters to Samulcotah, and they come back from thence to Upparra. — The Letters from Vizagapatam to Masulipatam may be sent the same way for the present, and I have wrote to the Officer commanding at Samulcotah to the same purpose.

As the Privateers may come this way next, I have advised Tripetty Peons of French Vessels being at Curinga, and to know what distance the can approach the Factory in case the French should land at Narsapore.

I request you would be pleased to write to him on the Subject, and to give him directions to receive into his Fort any Property that may be sent from hence, and at the same time to give protection to any People that may retire from Mr. Pollam to Masulipatam, in case such a step should be necessary.

As probably you may think it necessary to send a Detachment this way, I have sent down People to Collect the Boats at the different Rivers between

166. Fort St. George January 1781

23°. between this and Gullapollam, that no time may be lost in passing Troops this way. —

A Servant of mine is this moment arrived from Coringa, which place he left yesterday at 10 O'Clock in the Morning, he says that whilst he set out, about 200 Men had Landed, and that three other Boats were coming in. That the French vessels anchored in the road, the 14th at night - One a large Ship, the other two Snows. and that he was informed that three other large vessels were in the Offing. I am,

Gentlemen,

Your most ob.t Servant

William Duff

Maddepollam
6th Jan.y 1781

16

Fort St. George Council of

Home Copy

The Honble Charles Smith Esq.re Chief
Pres.t & Gov.r &c. &c. &c.

Honble Sir & Sirs,

We have received further Intelligence from the Resident of Ingelonne & Maddepollam, Copy thereof I wait now you enclose - it should appear from their last intelligence, that these French vessels are what we in our letter of yesterday conjectured them to be; the Privateers which have for some time past infested the Bay. —

From Guamlipatam with further Intell.ce respect.g the French Privateers —

We have consulted with Capt.n Shephyre; and every measure has been adopted which appear'd proper for the protection of the environs of this Place - The Boats mentioned in Mr. Duff's letter being exposed to some risk, whilst on

the

167. Fort St. George, January 1781

23d, the Road, have been or are now on shore — We shall ship them again as soon as it appears to us, that it may be done with safety; if the opportunity for doing it offers, We are with respect,

Gentlemen,

Your most ob.t Hble Servants.

Masulipatam
18th Jany 1781.

James Hodges
John Peter Boileau
Thomas Barnard
Alex.r Pringle

To James Hodges Esq.re
Provisional Chief &.a Council of Masulipatam

Gentlemen,

For the Current Expences of the Factory

You I have to request, You will remit me a Supply immediately of three or four hundred Pagodas, not having received any money from Mr. Hamilton lately, and not being able to get any from him at present, and are in want.

There are sixty Company's Bales on board of the Augusta Capt.n Rich, which I beg you would cause to be landed, and take Charge of, if you cannot dispatch Capt.n Rich for Madras, in a day or two, as some of the Cruisers may go down to Masulipatam soon, I am,

Gentlemen,

Your most ob.t Servant.

Maddepollam,
17th Jany. 1781

Alex.r Pringle

A true Copy

Signed William Duff

Sec.y

168. Fort St. George January 5th 1781

23d

To James Hodges Esqre

Chief & the Council of Masulipatam.

Gentlemen,

Mr. Hamilton who is now down at Coringa has desired me to inform you that the Enemy have burnt the Honble Company's Snow Concord, and that Capt. Keplee apprises him of their design to burn the Shipping at Masulipatam.

Ensign Copland arrived last night at Coringa with a Detachment of Seventy Sepoys from the garrison of Samulcotah, this is all the Intelligence I am at present enabled to transmit - I am

Gentlemen,

Your most Obt Servant.

Signed William Parsons

Ingeram
16th Jany 5 P. M.
A true Copy
J. Bingley Secry

To the Worble Charles Smith Esqre
Presidt & Gov. &c. Select Committee of
Fort St. George.

Worble Sir & Sirs,

From Masulipatam on the same subject

Since our last by yesterday's date, we have received one from Mr. Hamilton, a Copy of which comes enclosed, We have taken measures to prevent mischief in those Roads as far as it rests with us to do so.

We are respectfully,

Honble Sir & Sirs,

Your

169. Fort St. George January 1781

23d Your most obedient Humble Servants.

" James Hodges
" John Peter Boileau
" Thomas Barnard
" Alex. Pringle.

Masulipatam
19th " Jany 1781

To James Hodges Esqre
Chief &c. Council of Masulipatam.

Gentlemen,

Mr. Parsons advised you yesterday by my orders, of the Enemy's Boats having burnt the Honble Company's Snow Concord, loaded with Arracks, from Bencoolen, and bound to Bengal; they also burnt in the River the Snow Olive Branch, and a Sloop loaded with Shells and Charcoal for the Presidency. This Morning they burnt a Snow in the Roads, and I am informed by people that have been out in the roads, that the Privateer has been making Signals to two vessels that have appeared in the offing, This day the Boats have not attempted to land, but have been seen plying among the Country Craft in the Roads

I am,

Gentlemen,

Your most obt Servant.
(signed) William Hamilton.

Ingeram
17th " Jany 1781

P. S. I have this moment received Intelligence that Capt. Jones, late of the Industry, and Capt. Stephens, Chief Officer and Gunner are sent ashore from the French Privateer, and that she with her Prizes are got under way

170. Fort St. George January 1781

23d way standing out of the Roads, They have taken the Neptune from Vizagapatam with Stock.

8. P. M.

Have Copy Signed William Hamilton.

A Bringle Secy.

This day the following Letter was written.

To the Honble Warren Hastings Esqre
Governor General &c. Council of Bengal.

For. William.

Gentlemen.

We have been favored with
Your Letter of the 14th. Ulto

To Bengal on the State of affairs concern. the Nabob & the Rajah of Tanjore, the Indiamen sent on a Cruize — and arriving of the taking of Baraugulay —

The last advices we did our selves the honor of transmitting to you were under date the 13th Nov. last, since when the Transactions of this Government, have been so entirely turned to the establishing of domestic regulations, and to the general detail of the Army, that we have had nothing new, or of consequence to communicate to you.

The Letters which you will have received from Lt. Genl Sir Eyre Coote will have fully informed You of the immediate situation of the forces under his Command and of the full Latitude with which we have invested him, for the general conduct of the War.

Our former advices will have explained to you the distressed situation of the Nabob, from whom (as principal in the war) we were to have expected resources, and of the total inability he hath pleaded in the very essential article of

Money

171. Fort St. George January 1781

23d. Money.

At such a Conjuncture as the present, the whole revenue of the Carnatic ought to be appropriated to the Exigencies of the war, We have made the most earnest representations to the Nabob on this head, yet we are sorry to say it was not without difficulty that We obtained Assignments of any Country in repayment of moneys to be advanced by the Company at his particular Request, Assignments which are but for part of the revenues of the Countries that remain undisturbed, and which from the general delays and evasions of his Servants, We can but little dependance can be placed upon. The unprofitable System of his Government warrants this apprehension in the greatest degree, a system pound which neither the public Service, nor the establishd claims of his private Creditors can reap any Advantage whatever.

Specious however as some of the general causes of Inability are on the part of the Nabob the same cannot hold good on the part of the Rajah of Tanjore; whose revenues are considerable, & the repose of whose Country hath hitherto been undisturbed — So far back as the Month of July last the Rajah was strongly pressed for a Subsidy in Specie, but he declined it — and has ever since manifested so great a backwardness not only in the advance of any Specific Sum, but even in the Supply of a certain Quantity of Grain, which might

Fort St. George January 1781

23. might be mortgaged, or disposed of, that We have been under the necessity of expressing to him our highest dissatisfaction. &

The last Letter to the Rajah from our President was to the following Effect, and will enable you to judge more particularly of the reasons which induced us to convey to him such sentiments of our displeasure. We told him, that the numberless difficulties which had presented themselves to him to the raising a Body of 1000 Cavalry, were astonishing to us especially as he had concluded the expence which might attend it, would be deducted from his Subsidy. That our former letters to him on the Subject of Cavalry had been explicit. He was told Cavalry was wanted, and as one immediately under the protection of the Company he was the first we looked to for assistance. That the day of difficulty was the only one in which real friendship could be shewn. & That Procrastination exhibited a want of warmth in those, who from the peculiarity of their situation might be naturally supposed, concerned in the event of public affairs. That had means been taken in the beginning the small Corps he had been so solicitous to raise might have been now complete. But that those means had been unaccountably neglected, until it was almost too late to undertake any thing in a matter of so much importance to our Affairs. We told him however

23. however that the Tanjore Country having here-
tofore escaped every kind of Ravage and
Devastation, We still placed the greatest de-
pendence upon the assistance in both Men
and Money, which it was peculiarly incum-
bent upon him to give who enjoyed the ame-
plest Benefit of the Company's Protection.

To this Letter, We have as yet re-
ceived no answer from the Rajah altho it
was written to him above a Month ago. It
may perhaps have the Effect upon him We
have desired. A Copy of it was sent enclosed
to the Commanding Officer at Tanjore, with
directions to enforce the Spirit of it with
Firmness, but at the same time with the
greatest delicacy, lest the Rajah's fears should
be alarmed.

Thus situated with respect to the Nabob
and the Rajah of Tanjore, and being totally ina-
dequate to any further exertion ourselves, We cannot
but again in the most pressing terms, request
that the Supplies of Cash, You may be enabled
to send us, may be as considerable as possible.
Our wants absolutely demand this assistance.
For besides our Army Disbursements which
are very considerable — The Civil Department
is and must be heavily in Arrears, until
those Supplies arrive, as is severely felt by
several of the Servants of the Company.

The

174. Fort St. George. January 1781

23d The immediate Communication which hath been kept up between your Government, and your Resident at the Court of the Nizam ally Cawn, will have admitted of your drawing much more authentic Information from that Quarter than it hath been in our power to procure: We shall therefore refrain from troubling you with our Ideas on the political Situation of Affairs in the Decan.

Shortly after you had been pleased to acquaint us that a Detachment of your Sepoys should march to our Assistance, We wrote to our different Northern Zemindars, directing them to furnish a certain Quota of Troops estimated; Cavalry, Sepoys, & Pikemen, at 13,500, and to hold them in readiness to join the Bengal Forces when they should enter into our Provinces. What Effect this may produce We are yet unable to determine. We are in hopes however that such a number at least may be collected, as will afford some kind of Assistance in the Progress of the Detachment through the Circars.

Lt Genl Coote marched from St Thomas's Mount on the 17th Inst with the intent of relieving Wandewash, Permacoil, and such other Places to the Southward as were invested by the Enemy. Could it have been possible to have provided Draught & Carriage Bullocks sufficient for

Carrying

23d. Carrying Provisions for the army, the General would have moved much earlier. But, that was impracticable — Neither would he have been enabled to have left the Mount when he did, had it not been for the arrival of five of the Company's Ships from Europe, who by keeping the Coast clear, will allow of small Vessels supplying the army with Provisions by the means of Pondechery, or of some other Port, These Ships are the Dart-mouth, Grosvenor & Rochford, Neptune and Belmont, the three first are under the orders of General Coote, stationed to the Southward. The two latter are to proceed to our Northern Settlements, for such supplies as they may be able to furnish us with.

We have recommended to Captain Scott of the Neptune to inform himself particularly of the Strength of the Privateers, that have been cruizing for some time past, about the head of the Bay. And if on what he can learn he shall deem himself with the Belmont of force sufficient We have expressed to him our desire, that the Privateers may be attacked, as a Piece of service in which if he is successful the greatest benefit will result both to the concerns of the Public and of Individuals.

Enclosed We have the honor to send you —

176 Fort St. George January 1781.

23. Your Copy of a Letter received by the Nabob from his Vackeel at Poonah - by which We are happy to perceive the administration there are inclinable to pacific terms - a Letter accompanied his Highness's Dispatch from Nana Furnavees to Sir Eyre Coote, a Transcript of which, the General in the hurry of his Departure forgot to furnish us with, The Purport of it is short - but goes to the same point. We have likewise the pleasure to enclose your Copy of a Congratulatory Letter from the Peishwa and to our President on his accession to the Government, which has been just received. -

Since writing the aforegoing, We have received a Letter from Sir Eyre Coote, with the very satisfactory account of a Gallant & Spirited Assault made by a Small Detachment of his Army on the Fort of Carangooly, and of its having been carried most in hand - Copy of the Generals Letter comes enclosed - as well as Copy of Intelligence received from our Chief at Cuddalore, of Sir Edward Hughes's success on the Malabar Coast, where he has taken, burnt or destroyed Seventeen Vessels, belonging to Hyder Ally Cawn - We are with great Regard &

Gentlemen, Your most obt. Hble Servants,

Charles Smith &
Cta. Select Committee

Fort St. George
23rd. Jany. 1781

Received

1/7 Fort St. George January 1781

23 Received the following letter.

To the Honble the President & Co.a
Gentlemen of the Select Committee
Fort St. George

Gentlemen,

Inclosing Copy of Lre Cote advising of the taking of Carangulay – and enclosing a Copy of the Genl. Order on the occasion –

In my letter of the 19th instant I informed you of my intention of marching this Morning to Carangulay, and of the Probability there was of taking possession of that Place without much difficulty – I was led into this Idea by the repeated Information which had been brought me that it was in a manner evacuated, there only being left in it a Millidar and about twenty Men – upon the Strength of this Information and in full Confidence, that I had nothing else to do but to show Troops before it, and that it would fall – I accordingly ordered a Detachment under Command of Capt: Davis to march at twelve O'Clock last night – It consisted of about a thousand Sepoys, and four Guns with a Howitz, commanded by Captain Lanner – To the utter honor of the Officers and Men composing this Detachment, the Fort of Carangulay has been taken and in a manner which redounds much to the credit of their Bravery – After congratulating You on this fortunate Event, I must indulge myself with reciting to you the Particulars as well because I know it will prove acceptable to

178. Fort St. George January 1781

23d. Have you to read, as that it is a Justice I owe
owe every account to the Officers and Men
of the Detachment whose Gallant Conduct
is highly deserving of a place upon Record
The Detachment arrived at the Barrier
Gate of the Pettah this Morning at ½ past
5 O'Clock, where they were Challenged by
two Centries, who discharged their Pieces
and retired – In two or three Minutes the
Gate was forced and our Troops proceeded
immediately to the Gate of the Fort with
a twelve Pounder dragged by Lascars before
them. Captain Davis sent two or three of
the Village People to the Crest of the Glacis
with an offer of Cowle to the Garrison if
they would surrender in the meantime he
was advancing towards the Gateway
when the twelve Pounder had got as far as
the outer Barrier, the whole Garrison ap-
peared drawn up on the Ramparts and
Traverses of the Gate – They then began to
fire and the Gun was with much difficulty
run up against the Gate which on the
second Discharge gave way so much as to
admit the Men one by one – A second Gate
which has been lately built was in about
a Quarter of an hour opened – a third Gate
also now presented itself, which the Gun was
brought up to after much labour in re-
moving the first Gate out of its way – at the
first

179 Fort St. George January 1781

23d first discharge this atto was burst open when the Troops entered and took possession whilst the bulk of the besieged made their Escape by Ladders on the opposite side — During the whole of this Transaction the Detachment were exposed to a constant fire of Musketry from the Ramparts and upper works of the Fort — The Garrison as we learn from the Prisoners that have been taken consisted of about 700 instead of the small number — which was reported to me to be in it — Had I conceived that the numbers had been any thing near what they proved, I would not have exposed the Troops to so much danger but contented myself with reducing it in a more regular manner. —

As it has happened the Blow was an important one, because it has secured us a Quantity of Paddy for the subsistence of the Army, and nothing damps the Joy I feel upon the occasion — but the loss we have sustained — which is three European artillery killed and Eight Sepoys — Captain Moorhouse wounded by a Musket Ball thro' the left arm — Lieut Anderson thro' the Hand, Ensign Macalaster and Lieut Fireworker O'Brien slightly also by Musket Balls, but thank God none of them dangerous — Of non Commissioned there are wounded one

Sepoy

180. Fort St. George January 1781

23d Jepay Serjeant, one Artillery Serjeant, one Corporal one Gunner & nine private Sepoys of whom the Doctors think must die— Of the Sepoy Corps wounded— one Soubedar, Five Jemadars, Two Havildars, Two Drummers & thirty Eight Sepoys; and ten Lascars belonging to the Guns— This is a heavy loss when compared to that of the Enemy, which We do not find amounts to more than twenty Killed and wounded— Hyders Killidar is a Prisoner and Mortally wounded— Besides the Paddy in the Garrison which is estimated to be 7000 Collumms, a large Quantity may be Collected from the Villages around the Fort, and to facilitate which Business I have given the charge of the Country to the Father of the Ammil of Ghingy Lipuk, who by my Directions to collect as much Grain as possible, and to keep it in the Fort for the use of the Army— Of this I have written his Highness the Nabob, who I have no doubt will for the present confirm my Nomination— at all Events whilst our Operations are yet in their Infancy a Change must not be thought of— This is a Point in which, if you find any alterations are intended I must beg your Interference, that the Nabob may not subject himself to a Disappointment by any Person he may propose, being refused the Charge—

J C

181. Fort St. George January 1781

23d, I enclose You a Copy of the orders I have this day issued on the occasion of our success & hope you will deem the Officers & Men also deserving of some public testimony of your approbation.

It is incredible the Improvements and Repairs made on the Fort.— The works which have been rebuilt are not only well executed, but disposed of with as much skill, as if superintended by a Regular bred European, altho there was not one in the Fort.— It is now from being a ruin, become a place of great strength than when I took it last War, and is from its being Situated in the heart of a Fertile Country of that Importance which deserves our future Care and attention.

I would have transmitted you more speedy Intelligence of our Success which happened at 7 this Morning, but that I have been very busy and de was desirous at same time to send you the fullest information.

I have the honor to be
Gentlemen,
Your most obedient Servant
Eyre Coote.

Camp. Caringuley
the 21st. Jany 1781.

P.S. Since writing the above two of the Europ: Peon artillery who were wounded, are dead.

Camp near Caringuley 21st Jany 1781.

G. O.

Robt. Davies C. S. Carrangooly.

The 4

182 Fort St. George January 1781

23d The Commander in Chief's thanks are in the strongest sense returned to Captain Davies and the rest of the Gallant Officers, who this Morning so eminently distinguished themselves, on the very Spirited Attack & Capture of Carnaycolly the coolest determined execution of part of the Garrison acted & has given the army an ample & critical supply of Provisions, a post of the first consequence, and will prove of essential advantage to our future operations - The Commander in Chief cannot help repeating that his particular thanks are the due of Captain Davies - also of Captain Cannon - and the voluntary services of Captains Moorhouse and Pringle merit every Commendation. The Commanding Officers of the Sepoy Batts. are in short the whole Corps have had such a share in the Success of the day, that they are one and all marked as parties to whom the public are much indebted The European Artillery prove themselves what their Enemies have so long known them to be, the First of Troops - and the favorable report of the Surgeons, relative to the wounds of Capt. Moorhouse, Lieut. Anderson, Ensign Meacock Lieut. and Lieut. Fireworker O'Brien, that they are not dangerous, adds greatly to the pleasure attendant on our Success.

Capt. Davies will nominate a proper Person on the part of himself, and the other parties who took the Fort, to take an account

of

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23d of every thing Captured. It is to be understood that the amount will be divided among the brave Troops that took it, and that the Provisions &c are to be sold for the use of the Army, and the Money accounted for as received

24th In Consequence of the Letter received Yesterday the following General Order was this Day given out in Garrison.

G. O.

Fort St. George 24th Jany 1781

The Gallant and Spirited Behaviour of Captain John Davies and the Party under his Command, on the Morning of the 21st Instant, in the Assault and taking of the Fort of Carangoly having been communicated to the Board by the Right Honble the Governor and Select Committee by Lt Gen. Sir Eyre Coote, Comr: in Chief of the Forces in India and the President and Select Committee being highly sensible of their Bravery and good Conduct of Captain Davies and his Party, and being desirous of manifesting the same to the Establishment in general, do take this earliest opportunity of testifying their thanks in the warmest manner to Captain Davies, Lieut Moorhouse and Ensign Pringle - the Officers Commanding the Sepoy Battns and all other Officers - non Commissioned Officers and Private - And at the same time, do conceive it a mark of attention due in a peculiar manner due to the merits of such Corps, that so eminently hath signalized itself, that the Sentiments of their Commander in Chief to Government, should be made known to them in the most honorable & public manner

Extract

184. Fort St George January 1781.

23d

Extract of letter from Lt Genl Sir Eyre Coote Kt B. to the President and Select Committee dated Camp Carrangoly 21st July 1781.

"I ordered a Detachment under the Command of Captain Davies &c &c

(Copy of the General Order issued in Camp by the Commander in Chief of the Army.)

By Command of the Presidt and Select Committee.

A. J. Sullivan Secy

24th Received the following Letters.

To the Honble Charles Smith Esqre President & Governor &c &c Members of the Select Comme Fort St George

Honble Sir and Sirs

Ketch under my Command this Morning a Dutch Snow from Ganjam with Intelligence that a French Privateer

I enclose Copy of my Letter I received from one of the Captains in which he and Boats to bring the people ashore I transmit the information communicated by the Officers of the Snow Friends Adventure and Elizabeth & Jane,

Honble Sir and Sirs

Your very obt Hble Servt

John Turing.

The Snow Friends Captain from Bengal bound for Madras meeting with a gale of wind was blown off the Coast and Core away for the Nicobars and on the 24th

Ganjam
1st Janry 1781.

185 Fort St. George January 5th 1781

24th 2 A.M. the 6th October was taken by the Solomon
Capt: Dubignon, a French Ship of 30 Guns,
the said Snow then being near Poulowy
one of the Nicobars, the said French Ship
has 20 nine Pdrs on one Deck, 6 Sixes on her
Quarter Deck & four Sixes on her Forecastle,
Swivils and Blunderbusses &c. in the Tops
The Ship is quite a long Ship, but very low
with a manhead and no Quarter Badges
with a low Poop, the length of the Poop,
being not above nine or ten Feet.—
I have heard the Captains often say they
had 3 Cruizers, besides herself, one
Cruizing off Achcen Head, the other in the
Streights of Malacca, & the Ship Solomon
in Bay of Bengal. this is the same Ship
that took Capt: Vertue & Capt: Chew—
I have heard Captain Dubignon often say
that they had ten Sail of the Line and that
he was to join them the 4th Feby. on
the Malabar Coast and that they had
Seven Transports & 5000 Troops to join
Hyder ally & further that it is their
Intention to touch at every Place along
this Coast &c.

Jos. Smith.

Benjamin 11th Jany 1781.

Snow Elizabeth Capt: Chew
taken Nov. 30th by a French Frigate
named the Solomon Capt: Dubignon
of 30 Guns. Viz. 20 nine & 10 Six Pounders—

Re

106. Fort St. George - January 5th 1781.

24 The above Frigate is a bad Sailing Ship, bo[th] for the Wind, but goes tolerably upon a Wind, about the 10th Dec[r] last, She chased a Sloop about 20 Leagues near the Island Chindebah, and was obliged to give over as She could not come up with Her. The Snow was taken about 2 Degrees to the Eastward of the Andaman Islands bound to Pegue - January the 5th the Captain of the Frigate boarded a Dutch Ketch, Capt. Koenitz, & obliged him to take some of his Prisoners, we left the Frigate at an Anchor in the North E. S. Channel at the Mouth of the Ganges

(Signed) William Wilson

To the Hon[ble] Charles Smith Esq[re]
Pres[t] and Gov[r] &c[a] Members of the Select Committee
Fort St. George

Hon[ble] Sirs,

From Ganjam advising of a French Privateer anchoring in the Roads there

Yesterday Evening about 7 o'Clock the Salomon a French Privateer anchored in this Road and immediately sent their Boat's on board two Snows at Anchor, one a vessel I had freighted from Mr. Russell to carry to Mokha's Chunam, Shells and other things upon the Company's Account; the other a Snow from Bengal loaded with Rice.

The Privateer weighed in the Night and has carried away her Prizes, She stood to the Southward

187 Fort St. George. January 5 1781.

24. Soa thus ended with a design I fear to destroy all the Vessels along the Coast which must be attended with infinite loss & inconvenience, there is a Vessel at Sanapore which I have also freighted for 8 thousand Shells &c. and advanced the owners 1200 Rupees on account, after this I do not believe any Vessel will venture out without Convoy, indeed I fear most of the Vessels are gone out of the different rivers to take in their Cargoes, and in an open road they lay at the mercy of our Enemy — I am,

Honble Sir and Sirs,

Your very obt. Hble Servant

John Fleming

Gargaum
12th Janry 1781.

To the Honble Charles Smith Esqre
Govr & Presit &c. Select Committee.

Honble Sir,

I have the honor to inform you of the success of a Detachment sent the 20th at night under the Command of Captain Davies towards Carangully — The Place was carried about day break on the 21st — The 3 gates were burst open in the most gallant manner with 12 Pounders by our Artillery under a heavy fire from the Fort — After our Sepoys had rushed in they met with no resistance in the Fort — The Killidar and a great number of his People (in all I here incline about 400 fighting Men

From Chingleput — advis. of the taking of Carangully.

188. Fort St. George January 1781

24 Men in the Fort) were killed — It's thought there's about 5000 Bullocks of Paddy in the Fort — Captain Moorhouse is wounded in the arm — Lt Anderson, Ens.ns O'Brien and Macalister are also wounded —

Sir Eyre Coote as he passed this seemed greatly hurt at the lack of Tents on the road owing to the badness of the Bullocks — He was greatly surprized that this Fort could not produce independant of what he was pleased to send up here, a sufficient stock for the Army — I represented to him that when Hyder entered the Carnatic, there was not either in the Fort or in the Bazars a days Provisions for the Garrison whereas in other Forts there generally is deposited 6 Months Provisions — what true have there now would not admit of sparing any to the Camp & Followers — It's astonishing with what activity and observation he goes through with every thing — He was siezed with a fit of the Bile when here and it's the opinion of every body he exposes himself too much to the Sun, and rides too much about — but I fancy it is impossible for him to act otherwise

Sirs;

Your most Obliged Obt Hble Servant

Geo: Mackay

Lt Comt 78th

Tringlepat.

22nd Jany 1781.

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34.

To the Honble the President
and Select Committee.

Honble Sirs & Sirs,

I have this day received Intelligence that Capt: Keating has surrendered and that he with his Garrison is to go to the Presidency — The Troops that were against Amboor I am informed are now their March to this Place, so that I fear I shall be obliged to withdraw my People from the little Fort after all my endeavors to keep it which will give the Enemy a very great advantage over me — Their approaches on the South face is now advanced near to the Bank that supplies the Garrison with Waters, about 300 yards from the ditch at furthest, and I fear that there is 15 Pieces of Battering Cannon in readiness at Arcot. The defence of two Forts is too much for my Garrison and no dependance to be put in the Nabobs Sepoys, yet I will make them a little useful — I have the Honor to be

Honble Sirs & Sirs

Your most obedient Servant

Ross Lang

From Vellore with Letter of the Fall of Amboor —

Vellore
20th Jany 1781.

The Honble Charles Smith Esqr &c
Pres. & Gov. &c. Select Committee at
Fort St. George

Honble Sirs & Sirs,

The

190 Fort St. George - January 1781.

24th.

From Cuddalore advising of the Enemy bathing a Snow in Pondichery Roads - Requesting an armed Vessel to cruize against Hyder's Armed Boats.

The Evening before last a Snow anchored in the Roads of Pondecherry and yesterday the Officer who Commanded her as we are informed having been deceived our Shore by the People of the Sloop now there hoisting English Colours, he was immediately put in prison; a party of 25 Sepoys with 2 Guns sent on board the Snow and her Sails brought on Shore. - We sent a Catamaran yesterday Morning to the Master of the Vessel to apprise him of his danger, but conclude it did not arrive in time - We thought it our duty to make your Honor &c. acquainted with this transaction, and at the same time to inform you that there are 5 or 6 armed Boats off Porto Nove - that we expect shortly a great quantity of Paddy from Devicotah and that Boats with grain will be daily passing to the Northward, many of which as well as other Vessels will in all likelihood be taken at Porto Nove or Pondichery, & without your Honor &c. should think proper to send down an armed Vessel to clear both those places. A measure we beg leave to recommend in the strongest manner, if one can possibly be spared for such a Service -

We have the Honor to be very respectfully

Your &c.
Kenble

191. Fort St. George January 1781.

24th

Noble Sir & Sirs,

Your most obt. humble Servants

P. Daniell.

Wm. Maitland.

C. W. Gallofielde.

Rc. Guy.

Cuddalore
30th Jany 1781.

P.S. Since writing the above We have received information that the Snow mounts 16 Guns of her own.

+ Wrote the following Letters.

Lieut Genl. Sir Eyre Coote K. B.
Commander in Chief of the Forces in India.

Sir,

We have had the honor to receive two Letters from you, under date the 19th & 21st Instant.

To Sir Eyre Coote with Congratulations on the taking of Cavangulay — enclosing Papers of Intelligence. The Bedouins in readiness to sail on a Cruize. Tenders. a Copy of a Genl Order

The Gallant and Spirited behaviour of Captain Davis and the Party under his Command, in the attack and taking of Cavangulay, hath given us the most singular Satisfaction — Not only as the Capture of so Strong a Post, may tend to facilitate your operations in this early Stage of the Campaign — but, as it evinces to us the reliance we may place, upon that brave body of Men, who however inferior in numbers, cannot fail in their Successes, whilst acting under your Command. Permit us, to congratulate you, upon so important

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24th important Event, and to express to you our earnest hope and expectation, - That the impediments you at first experienced on your March for want of Bullocks, both Draught & Carriage, may be in some degree removed; by such, as it may perhaps be possible to procure in the Countries where you now are -

The undermentioned Papers of Intelligence, will convey to you the Substance of such matters as have come to our Knowledge since your departure.

The Fleet for the Southward, as well as that for the Northward, is nearly ready, and wants but a fine day to get Sail, to have every thing on Board.

We have the honor to be with the greatest esteem

Sir,

Your most obt. & Hble. Servants

Charles Smith &c.
Select Committee.

Fort St. George
24th Jany 1781.

P.S. The accompanying General Order has been this day issued; and we make no doubt of its being entirely Consonant to your inclination, as it amply testifies our sense of the merits of Capt. Davis, & the Detachment under his Command.

To Captain Phineas Bunt.

of the Town Tenby.

Sir,

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24th Sir.

To Captn Hunt, to put himself under the orders of Captain Saumt.

The Honble the President and Select Committee having agreed with the owners of the Snow Seaby, for the Services of that Vessel, with the Fleet now appointed to the Southward; I am directed to acquaint you, that you are in Consequence to put yourself under the orders of Captain George Farwell, from whom you will receive every such instruction as may be necessary —

I am,

Sir,

Your most obt. Hble Servant

R. J. Sullivan

Secy.

Fort St. George
24th January 1781.

At a Select Committee — Present.

Thursday the 25th

The Honble Chas. Smith Esqr. Pres.t & Govr.
———, Samuel Johnson,
———, Alexr. Davidson —
Sir Eyre Coote, and Sir
Hector Munro absent on Service.

Minutes of last Committee

read and approved. —

The President acquaints the Committee, that Captain Jefferies of the Snow Speedwell, who this Morning arrived in these Roads, has communicated to him the following Intelligence viz.t —

Captain Jeffries gives Intelligence of the French Fleet

That on the 22nd Instant he was taken by a French Fleet, and yesterday ransomed;

Fort St. George 25th Jany 1781.

announced; That the French Fleet consists of 6 Sail of the Line, and 3 Frigates besides one Sail of the Line, and 2 Frigates, which are to the Northward; The Ships are well found, and well manned; and when he left them, were not far distant from Pulicat; Captain Jefferies is not acquainted with the number of Military on board; He says however he does not conceive it to be very Considerable.

The following are the Questions put to Capt: Jefferies with his answers —

Question put to Capt: Jeffries with his answers —

Questions put to Capt: Jefferies, with his answers —

Quest: What were the number of French Ships? —

Answ: Six of the Line two Frigates, and a small 18 Gun Ship. L'Orient, Brilliant, Ajax the only Line of Battle Ships, Capt: Jefferies can recollect; Pourvoyeuse, Subtile Expedition Frigates and small Ships —

Q: When did they leave Mauritius? —

A: In October, had 50 days Passage to Acheen, where they had been to water. —

Q: What Troops have the Ships? —

A: No Troops; that their intentions were to take on Europe Ships from Bengal & from China, expecting the Cattenwaes Convoys at Madras; also to intercept the Dutch Fleet of warr which Convoys our Ships last year to the Cape, expecting them to join

Six

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Sir Edward Hughes

Quest: Are there any Ships of the Line; Answr: 4 Ships of the Line;
more Ships in the Bay and a Frigate Cruizing to
belonging to this Fleet? the Northwards.

Q. Are the Ships well Manned & Answr: Full of Men, & appear
provided? — to have plenty of Provisions, but
in want of Stores.

Q. Many of their Vessels been taken by the Enemy? Answr: The Two Friends, Capt: Marshall, & the Ketch, Capt: Barrett, both which they had burnt; The Sarnia, Schooner, with two Brizes, which she had taken; and was coming with into Madras, the latter captured the 24th Instant.

Q. Are there any Troops coming from Mauritius? Answr: Could not discover. That they expressed their intentions were to distress the navigation, & to cut off the three Men of War of Sir Edward Hughes's Fleet, that they might maintain a Superiority at Sea.

Q. Did the Officers appear acquainted with the defeat of the Detachment of our Troops by Hyder, on the 10th Septr? Answr: Yes, and attending Col: Baillie was living.

A.

196 Fort St. George 25th Janry 1781. — —

Q: Did you hear any thing of Monsieur Sermay's Squadron?

Answ. Not any thing, Mons. Tranjolly had been sent to France. — — — —

In Consequence of the above Intelligence, the following Letters are now written, and ordered to be dispatched immediately.

To James Hodges Esqr.
and the Council at
Masulipatanam.

Gentlemen,

We have undoubted Information that the French Fleet consisting of 6 Sail of the Line, and three Frigates, is now between this Port and Pulicat, and that one sail of the Line more, and two Frigates are further to the Northwards. This we have deemed it of importance you should be acquainted with as expeditiously as possible. — Whatever necessary arrangement may be made of the Force stationed in the Circars. Capt. Lysaght is appointed to the Command of the Troops in the Garrison of Masulipatanam, and in the Districts dependant upon it. He is likewise directed to Throw the Invalids that are at Vizagapatam into the Fortress of Masulipatanam, — that your strength there may be rendered as respectable as the situation of affairs will admit. We desire that this Intelligence may be communicated to the other Subordinacies and

To Masulipatam with Intelligence of the French Fleet — Capt. Lysaght appd to command there. Invalids to march Troops from Vizag. to that Place

197 Fort St. George 25th Janry 1781.

and that Captain Lysaght be informed without loss of time of his appointment — The accompanying Letter by the quickest and most secure conveyance must be forwarded to the Govr Genl and Council of Bengal.

We recommend that the Treasure at Vizagapatam may be removed to Masulipatam under the escort of the Invalids, that are to be drawn from thence to Masulipatam

We are,

Gentlemen,

Your affectionate Friends.

Charles Smith &c.

Select Committee.

Fort St. George
25th Janry 1781.

To Mr. James Berry Casamaijor
Chief &c. Council at Vizagapatam.

Gentlemen

I am directed by the President and Select Committee to acquaint you that they have been pleased to appoint Capt: Arthur Lysaght, to the Command of Masulipatam & the Troops Stationed in the District & dependant thereon, you will therefore be pleased to direct Capt. Lysaght to proceed thither with all possible expedition either taking with him the Invalids or ordering them to follow as soon as possible. They further desire that whatever Treasure you may have, be sent under

To Vizagapatam.
Capt. Lysaght to proceed to Masulipatam by Pearl to be sent from thence to Mastl. under Escort of the Invalids.

198. Fort St. George 25th January 1781.

Inclosed I transmit to Masulipatam,
I have the honor to be,
Gentlemen,
Your most obt. & Hble Servant
R. J. Sullivan
Secy

Fort St. George
25th Jany 1781.

Lieut. Gen. Sir Eyre Coote K. B
Commander in Chief of the Forces in
India.

Sir,

To Sir Eyre Coote with Intelligence of the French Fleet

Capt. Jefferies, of the Snow Speedwell has just landed here, and gives us the following information. On the 22nd Inst. he was co[n]
taken, and yesterday was ransomed. The French
Fleet consists of 6 Sail of the Line, & three Frigates,
besides one Sail of the Line and two Frigates
which are to the Northward. The Ships are
well found, and manned; and when he left
them, were not far distant from Pulicat. —
Captain Jefferies is not acquainted with the
number of Military on board, — He says
however, he does not believe it to be very
considerable. We shall immediately com-
municate this Intelligence to Bengal,
and all our Subordinacies in the Circars,
and as Masulipatam is of the greatest im-
portance, we shall direct Captain Lysaght
with the Invalids from Vizagapatam, to
throw himself into that Garrison, and to
take the Command of it. The Arrangement
that

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That we promise ourselves with most perfect approbation. The Destination of the Vessel for Suez is altered; She is immediately to proceed round to the Malabar Coast with advices to Sir Edward Hughes. Some of the Fleet are now in sight,

We have the honor to be

Sir

Your most obt. Hble Servants

Charles Smith &c.

Select Committee.

Fort St. George
25th January 1781.

To The Honble Warren Hastings Esqre
Gov. Genl. &c. Council of Bengal.
Fort William.

Gentlemen,

To Bengal with Intelligence of the French Fleet —

Capt. Jefferies of the Snow Speedwell has this Instant landed here, and gives us the following information. He left Trincomale on the 22nd Inst. he was taken, and on yesterday was ransomed. The French Fleet consists of 6 Sail of the Line and three Frigates, besides one Sail of the Line and two Frigates which are to the Northward. The Ships are well found and manned and when he left them were not far distant from Pulicat. Capt. Jefferies is not acquainted with the number of Military on board, he says, however, he does not believe it to be very Considerable. Some of the Fleet

are

200. Fort St. George 25th January 5781. —

are now in Sight.

We have the honor to be,
Gentlemen,
Your most obt. & hble Servants.
Charles Smith &c.
Select Committee.

Fort St. George
25th Jany 5781

The President acquaints the Committee that immediately on receiving the Intelligence of the French Squadron, he had Consulted with Brigadier Genl. Stuart, and Captain Caswell (the Master Attendant) relative to the future disposition of the Company's Ships, and that their Opinions were as follow.

disposit

To Mr. Secretary Sullivan.

Sir.

From Brig. Genl Stuart enclosing his opinion relative to the Fort St. G.

I enclose to you my written Opinion upon the principal Question put to me by the President, on the 25th Instant; which you will please to enter on Record.

I am
Sir
Your most obedient Servant
James Stuart.

Fort St. George 25th Jany 5781 —
12 o'Clock Forenoon.

Fort St. George
25th Jany 5781

General Stuart's Minute —

A Squadron of French Ships (save the Report of Capt. Jefferies of the Speedwell Snow who has just been taken and ransomed by them) Consisting as he says, of six

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six Capital Ships and Several Frigates are now in the Offing, and part of them in sight.

And the President and Select Committee having been pleased to desire my attendance, at this Crisis of publick affairs, and more particularly to know my opinion, whether the five Ships belonging to the Company, now in the Road, should be permitted to go to Sea; or if they should be detained.

I am giving my opinion clearly and decidedly, "That they ought to "be detained; and that an official Letter to that "purpose, should be delivered to each of the "Commanders, before they, or their officers, repair "on board their Ships" — "My reasons are"

That it seems to me impossible now, to escape falling into the Enemy's hands by any attempt to go to Sea, even during this Night.

That if the Company's Ships can come as I am informed they can, nearer to the Beach, they will not only be within the protection of our Guns on the Sea Line, but they will afford Cover to the Country Vessels with their valuable Cargoes of Rice, for this Garrison.

That from repeated experience I argue, that no Ship off the Line will attempt to come within reach of Shot, or perhaps even of Shells, in order to engage at

Fort St. George 25th January 1781.

at Close Quarters any of our Ships so thus Circumstanced.

And from the opinion I have of the Officers and Crews, and from the Construction of the India Ships, I am convinced the Enemy will not succeed in any attempt to Board them, from their Boats.

However in the last and worst possible Event — I mean supposing by the Enemy's Guns on the Shore of Sweathed, the Officers of these Ships should be obliged, even to run them on Shore; in this worst situation, which I hope will not be the Case; I think that the public Service, will be more benefited by the addition of the Crews of these Ships, added to this Garrison, than could arise from the remote Chance, of any part of them escaping from the Enemy, were they to leave the Road during the Night — and therefore orders should be given in proper time, to have every Masulah Boat and Catamaran kept in readiness, to assist the Ships in every possible Emergency.

(signed) James Stuart. Brigd
Comm.g the Troops in Garrison
Fort St George.

To The Honble Charles Smith Esq.re
President, Governor & Select Committee &c.a
Fort St George.

Hon.d & Sir & Sirs.

Sw

203 Fort St. George 25th. January 1781.

Sir Compliance with your desires

Shows Sir Edward Hughes with his opinion relative to the Europe Ships

I beg leave to give it as my opinion that the safety of the five European Ships chiefly depends on their remaining under the Protection of the Fort, and may at the same time be rendered of every essential Service in also protecting the Vessels in the Road now Laden with the Provisions for the Garrison.

What the French Fleet is said to consist of the Sail of the Line and three Frigates being to windward and a part of them in Sight, the Europe Ships attempting to leave the Road will in all probability be their certain Loss, as it will be impossible to effect this in the Day without Discovery, and in the Night their motions will in like probability be attended to.

What the Europe Ships may be appointed as Guard Ships, to prevent any attempt on the Road, What the Cutters to effect this, the small Vessels should be ordered to move in as near the Surf as possible, and the Europe Ships to lay close in and to windward of them, taking Care that the Vessels do not extend beyond the Sea Line to the South or South by West which the whole with the exception Ships within Point Black Shot, a situation Ships are cautious to attack.

Should the Enemy attempt the Europe Ships in the above situation, it will in all probability be in Boats and in the Night, but as these Ships are well manned and

Fort St. George 25th January 5781—

and armed; and now prepared to guard against such event, there is not much prospect of their Succeeding— I am

Worthy Sir & Sirs,

Your most obedient Servant

G Taswell.

Mast: attd

Fort St George
25th Jany 5781.

The Committee concur in the above opinions —

The Committee concurring in opinion with General Stuart, & Capt: Taswell, and in Consequence resolve that the following Letter be written to each of the respective Commanders of the Company's Ships.

To Captain Scott of the

Neptune.

Sir,

To the Captains of the Company's Ships directing them to move under the Protection of the Guns of the Fort—

The President & Select Committee have thought proper to resolve, - That the five Indiamen, who were under orders for the Fleets for the Southward and the Northward, do remain in these Roads until ordered to the Contrary, - and further that they do make as soon as it can be accomplished, within the Shelter of the Guns of the Fort. This is particularly recommended, - as the Enemy in the Night, may attempt to get between them and the Sea Line.

Fort St. George 25th Jany 5781 - By order of the Pres.t & Select Committee

R. T. Sulivan Sec.y

(To each of the Captains)

It

205 Fort St. George 25th January 1781.—

It being of the utmost Consequence that the news of the arrival of the French Squa: drow on this Coast, should be communicated with the utmost expedition possible to Admiral Sir Edward Hughes, and the Hibernia Snow being still in the road; Resolved as the Captain volunteerly offers to hazard the attempt of making his Passage to Bombay That he be ordered to proceed thither with the following Letters.

The Hibernia to be dispatched to Bombay.

To Richard Church Esqre Chief and the Factors at Tellicherry.

Gentlemen;

Captain Jefferies of the Snow Speedwell has just landed here, and gives the following Information. On the 22nd Instant he was taken by the Subtile, and carried on board the admiral's Ship L'Orient, and yesterday was ransomed. The French Fleet consists of six Sail of the Line, and three Frigates, besides one Sail of the Line, and two Frigates further to the Northward. He mentioned the Brilliant, but knows not the names of the others. The Ships are well found and manned, and when he left them, were not far distant from Pulicat. Capt: Jefferies is not acquainted with the number of Military on Board, he says, however, he does not believe it to be very considerable. Some of the Fleet are now in

To Tellicherry. advising of the French Fleet being on the Coast

very

206 Fort St George 25th January 1781.

in Sight. We have communicated this Intelli-
gence to the President and Select Committee
of Bombay, and to Admiral Sir E.d Hughes.

We are

Gentlemen,

Your most ob.t Servants

Charles Smith D.y
Select Committee

Fort St George
25th Jany 1781.

To the Honble William Bromley Esqre
Pres.t & Select Committee
at
Bombay.

Gentlemen,

To Bombay
with Intelle of the
Enemy's Fleet

Capt. Jefferies of the Snow
Speedwell, has this Instant landed here,
and gives us the following information. On
the 22.nd Instant, he was taken by the Sub-
tile, and carried on board the Admirals
Ship Orient; - and yesterday was ransomed.
The French Fleet consists of six sail of the
Line and three Frigates, besides one sail of
the Line, and two Frigates further to the
Northward. - He mentions the Brilliant, but,
knows not the names of the others. The Ships
are well found and manned, and when he
left them, were not far distant from Pulicat.
Capt. Jefferies, is not acquainted with the
number of Military on board. He says,
however, he does not conceive it to be very
considerable. Some of the Fleet are now in
Sight. This Intelligence we have communicated

to

207 Fort St. George 25th January 1781.—

To Admiral Sir Edward Hughes— and to the
Chief and Factors at Tellicherry

We are
Gentlemen
Your most obt Servants
Charles Smith &c.
Select Committee

Fort St George
25th Jany 1781

To Sir Edward Hughes Kt. B.
Rear Admiral of the Red, and Commander
in Chief of his Majesty's Ships in India.

Sir,

We Hibernia, Capt. Greenway,
which was to have sailed tomorrow for Suez
with our Dispatches to Europe, is now altered
in her destination— and as the Captain
promises to make his way good to the Malabar
Coast, we have thought it for the immediate
advantage of the Public Service, to order him
thither with the following Intelligence,
which we request you will communicate
to the President and Select Committee of
Bombay.

Capt. Jeffcries of the Snow
Speedwell has just landed here, and
gives the following Information. On the 22nd
Instant, he was taken by the Subtile, carried
on board the Admiral's Ship L'Orient, and
yesterday was ransomed. The French Fleet
consists of six Sail of the Line and three Frigates, besides one Sail of the Line, and two Frigates

further

To Sir Ed. Hughes with Intelligence of the French Fleet

Fort St. George 25th January 1781.

further to the Northward. He mentions the Brilliant, but, knows not the names of the others. The Ships are well found and manned, and when he left them, were not far distant from Pulicat. Captain Jefferies is not acquainted with the number of Military on board, He says, however, he does not believe it to be very Considerable. Some of the Fleet are now in Sight. We know not whether they are to be followed by Transports. Lest they Should, we are making every preparation of defence in our Power.

We have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obt. & Hble Servants.

Charles Smith &c.

Select Committee.

Fort St. George,
25th Jany 1781.

The following is the Order to Capt. Greenway of the Hibernia.

To Captain Greenway
Commanding the Hibernia.

Sir,

To Capt. Greenway with Instructions.

I am directed by the President and Select Committee to desire, you will take Charge of the accompanying Letters and proceed to Bombay. On your Passage, you will call at Anjengo, and shew the Letter under a flying Seal (directed to the Chief and Factors at Tellicherry) to the Chief there, or to any of the Kings or Company's Ships should you meet with any on your Passage. You will

the

209. Fort St. George, 25th January 1781

be particularly attentive, that the letter to Admiral Sir Edward Hughes is either delivered or forwarded to him with the utmost expedition possible.

I am
Sir
Your most obt. Hble Servant
R. T. Sullivan Secy.

Fort St. George
25th. Janry 1781.

The President lays before the Committee, the following Letter from the Commanders of the Company's Ships.

To The Honble Charles Smith Esqre
President and Council of
Fort St. George

Sir

We have received your — Instructions of this date concerning the safety of the Ships under our respective Commands which shall be punctually executed to the best of our abilities.

From the Captains of the Indiamen on the subject of their Ships —

But we wish further to be instructed whether it is your pleasure in case of the last extremity that in place of surrendering our Ships to the Enemy we should destroy them by running them on Shore or otherwise — We are
Honble Sir and Sirs
Your most obt Servants
(Signed) Robt. Scott
David Thomson
W. Dick Gamage
J. Cosby
James Sadleir

Fort St. George
25th Janry 1781.

210. Fort St. George 25th January 1781. —

Ordered, That the Secretary do write to them, the following order, relative to their Ships.

To Capt. Robert Scott.

Commanding the Ship Neptune.

Sir,

To the Captains of the Indiamen with Instructions respect. their Ships.

I am directed by the President and Select Committee to acknowledge the receipt of your Letter of this Date, & to signify to you their orders, that you are to bring your Ships as near the Surf, and as much within the Shelter of the Guns of the Fort, as you can possibly risk, that you are in no event to suffer them to fall into the hands of the Enemy, but in the last extremity to run her on shore, sooner than permit her to be taken.

Fort St. George 25th Jany 1781. By Command of the Pres.t & Select Comm.t

(Messrs to Capts. Thomson, Gamage, Coxon & Todd.)

211. Fort St. George 11 January 1781.—

26th Dispatched the following Letters.

To William Cuming Esqr.
Chief and the Council at
Cuddalore.

Gentlemen,

Captain Jefferies of the Speedwell, landed here yesterday, and gave us the following Intelligence. On the 22d. Instant he was taken by a French Squadron consisting of Six Sail of the Line, and Three Frigates.— But having agreed with the French Commander in Chief for his Ransom he was permitted to put into these Roads. This Squadron was the greatest part of yesterday within Sight, and a little to Windward of this Port.— In the night they altered their position.— and are now out of discernable. The intentions of the French seem entirely turned towards the destruction of our Trade: They have no Military of any Consequence on board: neither can we learn that any Transports are to follow them— In every event, however, it is necessary you should be vigilant and attentive, not only to your own Safety, but also to the immediate communication of every intelligence you may receive relative to the motions of the Enemy. Besides the Fleet above mentioned, one Line of Battle Ships and two Frigates are Stationed to Cruize on the Northern parts of the Coast. We are,

To Cuddalore with Intell: of the French Fleet

Gentlemen,

212 Fort St. George January 1781.

26th Gentlemen,

Your affectionate Friends.

Charles Smith
&c. Select Committee.

Fort St. George
26th Jany 1781.

(Similar Letters to Vizc. Hindlestan, Nagore,
Capt. Eidington, Calamcotah,
D. Col. Nixon:- Trichinopoly.
Capt. Gibbings - Madura)

To Wm. John Forbes,
Chief &c. Factors at
Tongo formerly
ing Letters for the
Admiral
Bombay
Tellicherry

Anjengo

Gentlemen,

I am directed by the President & Select Committee, to request your particular attention to the Speedy and safe conveyance of the accompanying Letters to the Select Committee at Bombay, to Sir Edward Hughes and to Tellicherry as they Contain intelligence of great importance for them to be acquainted with.

I am
Gentlemen,
Your most obt. Hble Servant.
R. T. Sullivan Secry

Fort St. George
26th Jany 1781.

Colonel Braithwaite
Commanding at Tanjore.

Sir,

To Colonel Braithwaite
with Intell. of the
French Fleet

Capt. Jefferies of the Speedwell,
Landed here yesterday, and gave us the
following intelligence. On the 22nd Instant,
&c.

213 Fort St George January 1781.

26th he was taken by a French Squadron; consisting of six Sail of the Line, and three Frigates, Cut, having agreed with the French Commander in Chief for this Ransom; he was permitted to put into these Roads— This Squadron was the greatest part of yesterday within Sight.—and a little to Windwards of this Port.— In the night they altered their positions and are now not discernible. From what we are able to learn, the intention of the French seem in the present instance to go no farther, than to the injury of our Trade. They have no Military of any Consequence on board, neither can we find out that any Transports are to follow them. In every event, it will be peculiarly incumbent upon you, to be vigilant, and to keep your Guards, not only with respect to the Protection and Defence of the Factory— the Country—, but, Likewise, to the actions of the Rajah, whose Conduct, has Lately been very unsatisfactory to us

We are
Sir
Your most obt: Hble Servants
Charles Smith &c
Select Committee

Fort St George
26th Jany 1781.

Lieut Gen: Sir Eyre Coote, K.B.
Commander in Chief of the Forces in
India.

Sir,

We

215 Fort St. George January 1781 –

To Lt Jones Hodges with Frontier &c Sept of 26th Decr 1780

26th

The Fleet kept their stations a little to the Windward of this Port all day yesterday In the night they altered their positions and this Morning are not in sight, except one small Vessel cruizing to the Southward of the Roads which we suppose to be the Danna Schooner, as we learn she had been taken by the Enemy on the 24th. We have examined Capt. Jeffries minutely, – and every thing we can collect from him, confirms us in the belief that the present intentions of the French go no further than to the injury of our Trade. We do not find that any Military are on board, or that any Transports are expected. The utmost, therefore, which it is probable we have to apprehend, is the obstruction which they have it in their power to give to the importation of Provisions by the Northward with Provisions. By another Messenger we shall furnish you with a Copy of what we have been able to learn from Capt. Jeffries.

We have the Honor to be
Sir.
Your most obt: Hble Servants
Charles Smith &c
Select Committee

Fort St. George
26th. Jany 1781.

To James Hodges Esqre
and the Council at
Masulipatam

Gentlemen,

You

215 Fort St. George January 1781

To Masulapatam to transmit Treasure down on Catamarans

26th

You were advised yesterday of the appearance of a French Fleet a little to the Northward of this Port, and of one line of Battle Ships and Two Frigates being stationed further up the Coast. We informed you of our having appointed Captain Lysaght to the Command of the Troops in the Garrison of Masulipatam and its Dependencies, - of our resolution that the Invalids from Vizagapatam, should be drawn from thence; as an augmentation to your strength, - and that the treasure Collected at Vizagapatam should be removed to your Settlement as a place of the greater Safety, under escort of the Invalids. In addition therefore, we have now only to direct that the Treasure on its arrival at Masulipatam, be dispatched on Catamarans, in sums of ten Thousand Rupees by each Catamaran, and that the Catamaran People be particularly instructed to avoid passing any Port during the Day time; that they be furnished with Buoys and Buoy Ropes and directed in case of danger from an Enemy, they should be necessitated to throw their Treasure overboard; that they be particularly attentive to notice the exact spot that they may recover it after the danger - This mode of transporting the Treasure hither we have adopted, as considering it the most secure, in the present situation of Affairs - You will in course make

216 Fort St. George January 1781

26th use of the same means to convey to us, what money you may have of your own to send to the Presi: dency

We are,
Gentlemen,
Your affectionate Friends
Charles Smith &c
Select Committee

Fort St. George
26th Jany 1781.

To Mr John Young
Resident at

Sir.

Tanjaure.

To Tanjaur with Indif. of the French fleet

I am directed by the President and Select Committee to acquaint you, that they have undoubted information that the French Fleet consisting of six Ships of the Line and three Frigates is now between this Pelt and Pulicat and that one sail of the Line more, and two Frigates are further to the Northward. That they have deemed of importance you should be acquainted with it, as expeditiously as possible, that every necessary arrangement may be made of the Force stationed in your District.

I am,
Sir,
Your most obedient Servant
R. T. Sullivan Secy

Fort St. George
26th Jany 1781.

Same

21st Ft St George January 1781

26th Came in Letter from the Commanding Officer at
Chingleput.

The Honble Charles Smith Esq re
Pres t & Gov r & c a Select Committee
Honble Sirs,

I hope the Intelligence I send
you may not prove true, but as my Harcara
report to me that Amboor has capitulated and
that Capt. Keating is at Arcot, it would be a
neglect of that duty I owe you, and which I
shall have the Honor most pointedly to observe,
if I did not inform you of the same.

I had the Honor to address
you upon the attack and our getting possession
of Carangully — At Tramalore there was found
a good deal of Rice and Paddy — The Army
was this Morning reported to me to be at Wan-
dewash — Hyder has moved from Arcot to-
wards Annee — Nothing else material of any
news in this Place — I am,

Honble Sirs, most respectfully
Your obliged & obt Hble Servant
Geo: Mackay Lt

Chingleput
25th Janry 1781.

Dispatched the following Letter to the
Governor General and Council of Bengal. +

To the Honble Warren Hastings Esq re
Gov r Gen l and Council of Bengal,
Fort William.

Gentlemen,

from Chingleput with Intelligence of the surrender of Amboor.

218. Fort St. George January 1781

26th

To being at with further Intelligence of the French Fleet & advising of the taking Carangulay

We had the Honor of addressing you a short Letter Yesterday, Duplicate of which now waits upon you enclosed. Inclosed the Names of the French Fleet, in Keeping their station to Windward of this Port and just within Sight all day yesterday, as well as from every kind of information we have been able to collect from Capt. Jefferies, we are led to Conclude their intentions have been levelled entirely against our Trade. Capt. Jefferies particularly Says, - he understood their views had been to take the homeward bound Ships from Bengal and China, the Latter of which, it was expected would have rendezvoused at Madras — &c: & Conformeing you will receive Copy of the questions put to, and of the answers given by Captain Jefferies — In all events, whatever may be meant, or whatever may be attempted by this Fleet, - we shall be on our guard & that every thing is in readiness for their reception.

On the 21st Instant, — a Detachment of the Army under the Command of Capt. Davis, in the most spirited and gallant manner, attacked and Carried the Fort of Carangoly, - a Post of Considerable Consequence and Strength, - and one which Consists in a very essential degree a Key to Coote in his future operations — Our last advices from the General were dated on the Day this enterprise was fortunately effected

We

219. Fort St. George, 29th January 5781

26th

We are

Gentlemen,

Your most obt and most
humble Servants
Charles Smith &c.
Select Committee.

Fort St. George
26th Jany 5781

At a Select Committee, Present,

The Honble Charles Smith Esqre President, Govr.

Samuel Johnson,

Alexr Davidson,

Monday the 29th } "

" Sir Eyre Coote & Sir H. Munro absent on Service

Minutes of last Committee

read and approved.

Read the following Letter

from Lt. Genl Sir Eyre Coote

To the Honble Charles Smith Esqre

Pres. and Govr. &c. Select Committee

Fort St. George.

Gentlemen,

From Sr Eyre Coote
retained Wandiwash
requesting leave
Flint & Orme to Madras
to the Committee

Doctor Joad for
bringing recommends
from Bishop to the
Committee

I had the pleasure of addressing you the 21st to inform you of our Success in having taken the Fort of Carangoly, I marched from thence the 23rd in the Morning - altho we did not come above nine miles, owing to the badness of the roads we were not encamped till after dark - on this March considerable bodies of Horse appeared to the right and left of our Line of March - They threw now and then a few Rockets, but did us no mischief - The advanced Guards

22d Fort St. George 29th January 1781

Guard fired two or three Shot at a Body of them, whereby a Commander of the Enemies Horse by name Alverdy Beg was mortally wounded— The Shot entered at the Forward came out at the Belly— He lived twenty four hours— I marched again yesterday Morning and have the satisfaction to in: form you that I reached Wandewash in the afternoon, which I was rejoiced in finding still in our possession and that the Enemy had raised the Siege on the 22nd Instant a Circumstance which I think de: serving of remark as on the same day of January 21 Years ago I raised the siege of this Place by a Battle with the French. In the Course of yesterdays March Parties of Horse appeared now and then on the Right of the Line and attempted to molest us with Rockets, but they were soon dispersed by a few shot by which we have reason to believe some of them suffered— We have sustained no loss since we left Carangully I have visited the Fort of Wandewash in which there was only one days ammun: ition left— I cannot speak enough in praise of Lieut Schmit His Judgement, Bravery, and Activity in maintaining this Garrison against very powerful Attacks of the Enemy Have equal merit and deserve the highest Commendation. The Service

which

 Fort St. George 29th. January 1781

which he has thereby rendered the Publick is of such importance as intitles him to the immediate attention of your Government, and I have therefore to recommend that in consideration of his eminent Services he have a Brevet Commission of Captain given him and to have the Command of the first vacant Battalion of Sepoys, Ensign Moore has also distinguished himself on this occasion in the support he gave Lieut. Flint, and I recommend him to your Government to have a Brevet Lieuts Commission— I have ordered Lieut. Flint in the interim to continue in Charge of the Fort of Wandewash and for the defence thereof have instructed him to recruit and form a Batt.n of Sepoys, as it is impossible to afford men for that purpose from my army which I have already greatly weakened by the Batt.n of Marthons Grenadiers which I was obliged to leave for the Protection of Carangoly, I also left an artillery Officer with the two Field Pieces and the Complement of Men to work them— Thus, Gentlemen, you find that instead of adding to my small force I have been diminishing of it and have pursued my March to this Place at a risk which nothing but my Zeal for the Honor and Interest of the English Nation could possibly have induced me to— The success with which I have accomplished the

objects

Fort St. George 29th January 1781—

objects of my march are strong incentives for me to proceed still further and if I had nothing to consult but my own Inclinations I would not hesitate a moment in seeking for the Enemy— My Force is not sufficient, and to enable me to act offensively, more Troops must be raised, the Sepoy Battns I have with me are all of them incompleat, however were they compleat they would still be inadequate to attack the Enemy in his present situation so that if we are the army must be encreased much must beyond its present strength, We are still distressed for Provisions, having obtained no other assistance by our arrival at Wandewash, but about a days Rice for the Army— of Paddy there is a pretty large quantity wherefrom to beat enough into rice for Subsistance of the Army for four or five days will require two or three days during which time I am obliged to serve Paddy to the Sepoys. It was done to day, but has created much discontent; because they have no Implements to beat it out, and have not the assistance of their Families whom they left behind; these are disagreeable Inconveniencies to experience at so very critical a Conjuncture, but they are not to be obviated. Thus circumstanced I must remove towards the Sea in order to secure Provisions. I shall march by Permacoil, from whence I have

received

223. Fort St. George 29th January 1781—

Siege

received Letters informing me that Hyder already raised the Blockade of Bednore. The Behaviour of Lieut Bishopp in defence of that Garrison has been happily meritorious, and is equally deserving the attention of your Government as that of Lieut Flint— I therefore also recommend him to be promoted to the rank of Captain and to have a Brevet when vacant, for which his Seniority in the Service gives him a prior title to Lieut. Flint— I have written to the Fleet to proceed to Conjeeveram, to which place I shall send further orders as may be found necessary— Mr. Welch the Paymaster informs me that he has written to you for a Supply of Money, to which I doubt not of your ready attention and speedy Compliance as my last letter from the Gov.r and Council gives me some reason to hope that Volunteer Sepoys may be sent me by Sea— Should any Therefore arrive I could with immediately to be informed of it and that they might not be disembarked until you could have my orders regarding them— I shall depend upon your informing the Supreme Council of all the operations of the Campaign, as my time will not admit of my doing it myself. I must also recommend to your getting the Nabob to write to the Mirzas Chazie Beg, to inform them of your Army's having taken the

224 Fort St. George 29th January 1781

the Fields of its Success — A letter might also be written to Mr. Holland to the same purport that he might communicate it to the Nizam — upon Collecting the dead at Carangully, it was found that a greater number of the Enemy were Killed and wounded than mentioned in my last Letter, in all they amount to about a hundred —

I am

Dear Sir

Your most Obt. Hble Servant

Eyre Coote.

Camp near Wandewash.
25th January 1781.

P.S. Since writing the above I have received a Letter from Lieut Bishop of Sultan the enclosed is a Copy, you will perceive by it how little Lenity the French deserve from us, and how necessary it is to annihilate them all at Pondecherry as soon as possible. I had almost forgot to mention, that in the Course of our March, about 15 of the Enemy's Horse came across us, they are mere rabble, but may be made useful in Collecting Cattle and Provisions found. —

To Lieut. Gen. Sir Eyre Coote K. B.
Commander in Chief &c.
Sir

I did myself the honor of writing to you yesterday acquainting you that the Enemy had moved off, since when I received the Captains

225 Fort St. George 29th January 1781

Captain Pringle's Letter of the 17th from Vandiloor acquainting me of the army being arrived there: A Jemidar of the 19th Batt.n of Sepoys, who was taken Prisoner at Gingee, and brought to Hyder's Camp here, made his escape to the Garrison just as the Camp was moving off. He informs me that the People at Pondechery has been giving Hyder every assistance in their power ever since his Arrival in the Carnatic, indeed this Information corresponds with many others of the like Kind which I have received. The two Heavy Guns which they attempted to breach this Fort with, was sent there from Pondechery, and the Jemidar informs me there was three more expected every hour, when the Camp broke up and he also informs me that a French man had been in their Camp several days from Pondechery to negotiate the Business of raising a Batt.n of Sepoys for Hyder in that Place, for which purpose Mer Bussey the man who Comm.r manded the Party of Hyder's here, had advanced him three thousand Pagodas. I have wrote to the Chief of Cuddalore about three Three Guns — I think it will be in his power to secure them — had not my small Force been much reduced by Casualties I should have sent a Party in quest of them — wishing you, Sir, all imaginable Success. I have the Honor to subscribe myself

Jemidar

Batt.n

226 Fort St. George 29th January 1781

Yours very obedient Servant
(Signed) Benj: Bishop

Pay

Pennacoil 25th Jany 1781

A true Copy
Wm Sweeny Secy.

Minute on the Subject of the reward to be given to Lieut Flint Bishop & Ensign Moore

The Committee are sensible that the Conduct of Lieut Bishop and Lieut and Ensign Moore; is deserving of their Attention and merits every mark of their Approbation — at the same time they wish to submit to the Generals further Considerations the Circumstances in which these Gentlemen appear and the Grievance which their Seniors might feel in the Supercession recommended by the General: They propose with his acquiescence recommending them to the Court of Directors, and giving the first vacant Battn to Lieut Bishop; and the Command of that which he is now raising to Lieut Flint, with the Pay and Emoluments of a Captain, and as a further Testimony of their sense of the Conduct of Lieut Flint and Ensign Moore, they propose to make them a Compliment the former of 2000 and the latter of 1,000 Pagodas.

Read the following Letter from Capt: Barclay —

To the Honble John Whitehill Esqre
Presidt and Govr &c. Select Committee.

Honble