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records.

27/17-10-1942.

M.C. 74
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685 Fort St. George 19th March 1781

me instead of pursuing the Original Plan of meeting with the Troops under Capt Eidingtoun and creating a Diversion in Hyders Country on the side of Dindygal & Sunder Stand the Ship to be sent from Bombay are to come by Sea and I conclude on board of since part of admiral Hughes's Squadron and whose destination after landing the Troops will doubtless be for this Coast I would recommend as the passage at this Season of the Year must be very short if practicable that you imbark the whole of your Detachment and come round to this place, I am confident from the knowledge I have of Sir Edward Hughes's ready disposition to do every thing towards assisting the Publick Service, that he will chearfully acquiesce on this occasion the more especially when I can assure him that the speedy Junction of your detachment with my Army is of the utmost importance to the prosecution and success of the Arduous War in which I am engaged, If you find it impracticable to come by Sea you must follow my orders of coming by Land by such Road as may be the most safe and Expeditious — nor must you allow any Occurrence unnecessarily to delay you — Should any forces belonging to the Native Powers offer to join you by all means encourage them but do not seek for them at the expence of much impeding your march —

I am sorry to find you consider your detachment so ill fitted for an immediate Campaign I trust however that with the assistance which shall be given it in Tents and every thing else on its arrival on this Coast will effectually supply

Some

else

1

686.

Fort St. George 19th March 17

men engaged.

recruit both the Bodies and Spirits of the men
and that the Service they have lately been eng
on instead of incapacitating them for the duties
of a Campaign will be found to render them be
able to undergo them

Hyder is now laying encam
with his main Army near Trivide, a Place laye
about 8 Miles to the Westward of this Place
has occupied all the roads on that quarter ex
at those leading to the Southward I have a Secr
a good deal disquieted on the Score of Provisio
which I was prevented from obtaining on the
side by the Enemy and by sea by the French fle
which have been on the Coast these twenty Days
They sailed however four Days ago and I ha
every Hope of procuring by water what I want

better

encamped laying

and well as.

provisions land fleet have

Camp Cuddalore
17th Feby 1781

I am
Sir
Your Obedt
Servant
Signed Eyre Coote

A true Copy Geo Tyler

To Brigadier General Goddard

Sir

I have received your Letters of th
and 28th of December last, & most heartily re
the Success which has attended your operation
Bassein, and the consequent fall of that imy important
Fortress — after begging that you will yourself
of my sincere congratulations on the additional

18th rejoice at operations against on accept additional honor

Fort St. George 19th March 1781

which you have acquired by this Event, which doubtless is a severe Blow to the Interests of the Marratta State, I request you will in my Name express the high Sense I entertain of the Bravery and good Conduct of the officers & Men under your Command, and this I must entreat you will do not only by mentioning every officer and Corps which you deem deserving of Marks of my approbation, but that you will do it in such signal terms as will convince them of the entire satisfaction I have received from the favorable Accounts transmitted me of their Valour and steady attachment to our Interests — I shall also chearfully acquiesce in any marks of Distinction which you may think proper to confer upon the Bengal Troops, whom it must be allowed highly Merit every Indulgence and favour in our power to grant them.

Having thus discharged the Debt which I hold on my Account due from me to yourself and the Troops under your Command — I shall beg your attention to what I have next immediately to offer on the subject of your Letters of the 18th and 28th December.

When I wrote you in the Terms I did, the most expressive I could dictate, of the distressed Situation of affairs here, wherein I enumerated the various difficulties I had to combat against the smallness of my Force, and the absolute impossibility of my attacking the Enemy in the Strong Holds he was possessed of, unless a Division was created in his Country to oblige him to divide the very formidable force he has in the Carnatic, I conceived when I stated these Circumstances, and added to them

upon

measures,

with

Interests
delegated
command
might

a
Marattas

latitude.

688 Fort St George 19th March 178

them my firm opinion that nothing but our
united efforts speedily exerted could possibly
retrieve the misfortunes which had fallen upon
our Interests on this Coast, and the Consequent
Ruin which threatened the whole of the English
possessions in India, I did not mean to enhance
any Credit which might arise from my honest
Exertions in the cause of my Country and my
Employers, but that you might be the better con-
vinced of the real necessity there was for seeking
an Accommodation with the Marratta on any
terms, rather than, that by prosecuting a doubt-
ful War, delay should have happened in
pursuing such measures as promised the accomplish-
ment of the grand national object giving an
effectual Check to the increasing power and
influence of Hyder — My Cause — I will not
argue how far my Orders — Commanders in
Chief ought to have weighed with you on the
Occasion — but I must say, when together, and
then I stated the imminent danger which I
conceived to impend the British Interest in
India, and under an Express Authority dispatched
to me over the Bengal Troops under your Command
pointed out the mode whereby that Danger might
be averted, I did promise a very heavy disappoint-
ment in your not having at least aimed at
Cessation of Hostilities with the Marratta
for which the Resolutions of the Governor
General and Council as well as the spirit
of the proposed Treaty itself gave a clear Lat
with the Authority you

Fort St. George 19th March 1781

propose over the Bengal Detachment independent of the Bombay administration, and furnished with a just account of the Situation of affairs here of the most serious Importance, and which stood in need of such speedy Support; I am confident that had you made it as it desired, the first object in your Deliberations with the Bombay Council, that they would have seen the propriety of Countenancing it, and that had they & you in Consequence been Solicitous about it in your Communications with the Minister at Poonah, I have every reason to think from the Situation the Marratta State were then in might easily been effected. I will not be certain that no Endeavours have been exerted to that End, but as you make no mention of any thing to that Effect in your Letter, I am justified in drawing the Conclusion I have done, and in adding that I conceive my powers as Commander in Chief in India have not been trialed with that attention, to which in a time of War for we they are intitled, and more particularly at a Juncture and on an Occasion like the present which called for their Exercise and Interposition. I wish nevertheless to rest the Judgement to be formed on my own Conduct, and the Conduct of the other Parties who have had either an executive or Deliberative Share in the Managument of Public affairs upon our own Evident Necessities which it must be confessed were too alarming to justify any measure that could delay the much wanted cure for all our Distresses — a Marratta Peace. Although I ever considered the Policy of Warring against the marratta State, as a most ruinous one to the Interests both of the Company and the English Nation, still on the eve of your late Success, if we had no other power to Combat against the Marratta

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Scene

I might have subscribed to the Plan you advise me, has been laid down for the operations of your Campaign as the most likely to procure us Honorable Terms of Accommodation; but engaged as we are in a Land of Contention I may say with every power of any Consideration in India, all steps, the Event of which could not be clearly ascertained as an infailing remedy must be exceptionable. — By prosecuting the War our difficulties must be encreased, and the prospect of obtaining Peace becom daily more distant. Our Resources anticipated by the Current Demands of our Military, to which they are unequal and burthened with a Heavy Debt, cannot long the present support System. I must therefore impose it upon you as a Duty you owe your King, your Country and your Employers to leave no means which may depend upon you untried to effect a Peace with the Marrattas; and which may enable you speedily to carry into Execution my orders for entering and creating a powerful Diversion in Hyder Ally's Country on the Malabar side, without which I have already told you, that it is impossible for me with the very small Army I command, to drive him from the Carnatic, possessing as he does a numerous and formidable force, and with very man of any Consideration in this Country in his Interest, may Absolutely at this Moment in his Camp, with Considerable Bodies of Men.

In the operations of War yet I forsee Campaign I conceive my self to have already put more to risk than can be reconciled with a proper

Regard

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Regard to the Public Intrest — I shall not attempt
Countries
as my time and Attention are in Watching the motions
of the Enemy, who is Strongly posted a few miles distain
from this place, to State the grounds upon the which
the above opinion is Founded, but just relate for
your Information the Effects which my movements
have produced — The retaking of Carrangoolay in
a manner which does honor to the Bravery and
Resolution of the officers and Men imployed in that
Service — The Raising of the Siges of Permacoil,
Vellore, and Wandewash and now keeping the Enemy
in Check from attempting any thing effectual
against these and other Garrisons — I cannot however
prevent his ravaging the Country all around, and
obstructing all Supplies from coming to my Camp,
what I now obtain is by Sea, I ought also to have
mentioned the distressing the French Fleet in the
Pondicherry Roads, by destroying all the Boats
by the assistance of which, they drew Refreshment
from the Shore. They are now happily departed,
being in Number Seven Ships of the Line and three
Frigates — had they not gone when they did my
Distresses for Provisions which were then great,
might have increased to a Degree that would have
terminated in the most Melancholly and fatal
manner to this Army. I thank God however as
the sea is now open to us, these alarms are entirely
subsided — I'll equipped as the French Squadron
were for making resistance, it is much to be regretted
that our Fleet should have been absent from this
Coast, as I am confident they must have provided an

easy

Fort St. George 19th March 1781

easy conquest to them.

I can give you no Idea of what may be the future operations of my Campaign, as they must be guided by the Movements of the Enemy.

I trust that the intended Relief for Major Colgrave has been sent to Tellicherry as the bad Effects which have been produced in his Detachment by the frequent breach of promise to the Seapoys of returning to this Coast are both Serious and alarming: on the Strength of your Information that Major Colgrave would certainly be relieved from Bombay, I have sent him orders to lose no time in joining me by the South Route or with the Admiral

I shall conclude with observing that as your Letter contains Assurances of your desire to Co-operate with and to assist my measures, I will rely on your leaving no endeavours unexerted to accomplish the important objects above pointed out

I have the honor to be Sir

Camp Near Town
1st
1. March 1781.

Your most Obt
Humble Servt
/signed/ Eyre Coote

P.S. I think it necessary to inform you I have received Information that Hyder ally Sheen is using every means in his power to defeat our views of Peace with the Marrattas, and has even carried his Intrigues so far as to Authorize Ragunant Row to employ his Credit in the Expunde

643. Fort St. George 19th March 1781.

turn of whatever Sums he may send money to that End.

A true Copy Geo. Sylas.

To the Honble William Hornby Esqr.
President and Governor &c. Select Committee
Bombay

Gentlemen

By Letters which I have received from Brigadier General Goddard, I have had the pleasure to be informed of the Surrender of the important Fortress of Bassein to our Arms on the 11th December, an Event which permits me to Congratulate you.

Although I have not been honored with any reply to my Letter of the 4th November these Letters also sufficiently inform me of your having been made acquainted with my earnest Desire of the Troops under Brigadier General Goddard's Command being employed against the Possessions of Hyder Ally, of my reason for expressing that Desire, and in order that he might do so to the best advantage of my anxious wishes to see an accommodation take place with the Mahrattas. By the same Letters it also appears that you were in possession of the terms of the Treaty offered to them by the Supreme Council, and of their Deliberations thereon, consequently you were possessed of every Material and Authority to assist and Sanctify your Councils, which it gives me concern to find should have terminated in a Resolution to prosecute Hostilities against the

of

wishes

691. Fort St George 19th March 1781.

The Maharattas.

What are the grounds upon which this Resolution was taken and it's necessity urged it is impossible I should know without having our proceedings of that however I am certain that if to enable us to direct our whole force against Hyder ally it was necessary to make Peace with the Maharattas upon their own terms, it would have been according to what I am fully convinced ought not to be put in Competition with the task which is now run by prosecuting the War, and would in the present Situation of our affairs which is truly a Desperate one, be a much better policy and in the end have terminated more to the advantage of the Compan and the Nation than that which has bee adopted, and which nothing but a succes of the most fortuitous circumstances can p bring to a happy conclusion: the Deliberat the Governor General and Council on the qu of Peace with the Maharattas gave a latitu for a Cessation of hostilities, but I cannot ga from the Letters I have received from Bengal General Goddard that any Endeavours h entitled to that End, which certainly circumstanc as we are was an object at least to have been pursued if we had failed in the accomplishment of it ——

For your further information I enclose you Copy of my Letter to General Goddard and list the original may miscarry, as all hand[s]

[illegible]

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-veyance is now become very precarious I request you
will transmit him a Copy of it

Camp New Town,
2d March 1781

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

A true Copy.
Geo: Tyler.

To Colonel Lang.
Commanding at
Sir, Vellore.

Not having received any Letter from you for a long time, I conclude must be owing to the communication between my Army and your Place being completely shut up by the Enemy — Hyder with the whole of his army appeared on the 8th Instant close to the ned Hills where I was then encamped, and as he seemed to continue his march to the Southward, I also marched to cover this Place, which otherwise might have fallen, and to procure Rice, of which I had not one days remaining — the first Object has been effected, but in the latter my Expectations have been so much disappointed that I have not been able to move more than Miles from hence — this Check to my progress affords the Enemy time and opportunity to occupy all the Southern Roads, and to strengthen

Gen.

towards

Fort St George 19th March 1781

them — Thus situated, and shut up by the French fleet from obtaining any supplies by sea, the prospect before me was both gloomy and distressful and it is impossible to say what might have been the consequences had not the French fleet sailed Yesterday, and thereby left upon the Coast with Madras from hence. I have every reason hope I shall soon receive a reinforcement, and then I shall then be able to devise means to draw from his present Post in the interim I submit it to your judgment whether you might not create a Diversion towards Arcot — I do not expect you can do any thing effectual, as I conceive Hyder must have left a force strong for you to make any serious attempt against — but even the Show of a Movement that quarter might have its good effect — by affording me the opportunity I so wish for of bringing him to a general Action

I am Sir a Letter which I have just received from the Select Committee acquaint me of your having informed them of Letter of Proposals having been made by some of the People now in Hyders Service to come over to you — any transaction of this Nature ought to be conducted with great caution and circumspection, more especially situated as you are with a certain knowledge that Hyder has for many Months past not only spies but

I am

Copy Fort St. George 19th March 1781

Sincerely wished to possess himself of your Garrison, and had private means to that end, It is not impossible then that such a plan might be favored by him with a Suspicion you no doubt will keep in mind, at the same time if just at this period such a Revolt could be brought about, and a Diversion in consequence take place, it might as I have said before be of the greatest Utility — I trust now that the Country is pretty clear around you, that you are using your endeavors thro' means of the Renter, to get Grain and other Provisions into your Garrison.

Camp Cuddalore,
19th March 1781.

Sir, Your most Obt
Sir, Servant,
Signed Eyre Coote,

A true Copy
Geo Taylor

To Colonel Brathwaite
Commanding at
Tanjore.

Sir,

Since writing my letter of yesterday I have received one from Mr Mk Intosh the Company's Resident at Tanjore, inclosing me one from Capt. Lamotte to him; the Contents of which have surprized me more than I can well express. I inclose you a Copy that you may the more clearly understand the remarks I have to make upon it —

He therein acknowledges to
have

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have been at Trivalore a place within Sixteen or eighteen miles of Nagore, and if I may be allowed to judge from the Date of his Letter from Mayavaram, and other Intelligence I have received, I should imagine that he must have been at Trivalore at the time when the Enemy were in no very Considerable force plundering and destroying our Settlement of Nagore, whereby not only our Interests were suffering very essential Injury, but our Arms disgrace — In this situation of things with Detachment I must conclude at least adequate to the Service, otherwise it would never have moved to the Station it was at, on the 25th Ultimo, Captain Lamotte does not go to Nagore, Marches to Mayavaram, thereby leaving the Enemy in his Rear to prosecute their Attack of that place, which if he Considered himself unequal to relieve, he was surely blameable in leaving such a Body behind him, and much more so in marching to a place at so very great distance from the main Body of Hyder's Army and from which quarter knowing the rapidity of the Enemy's motions, I had so lately recommended the Detachment when under Command of Captain Nobles to retire and provide for its security, since then you have formed a Detachment (Co-) petent to encounter every risk to which the one under Captain Lamotte appears now to be exposed, the least you Should have done would have been to have advised me of it — If you have, your Letter have never reached me —

Having thus as far as I can

Fort St George 19th March 1781

can without being informed of the Cause or object of this movement of Capt Lamothe stated it's seeming impropriety, I have to observe on a Delaration in his Letter of a most pointed nature, which it will requier that both you and he should fully and Satisfactorily explain — It is that he would not move from his then Station until he should Recive an answer to a Letter he had written you, notwithstanding he at the same acknowledges to have received a Letter from Mr Huddleston, wherein as that Gentleman writes me he is informed that by my Authority he requests him to proceed without Loss of time to Nagore — and inorder to obviate the better any Doubt about a compliance with this Request adds to it good and substantial reasons from himself.

In order then that no further doubts may arise I have sent express Orders to Capt Lamothe to march to Nagore without Loss of time, and there to imbark on board Vessels provided for that purpose as many of his Detachment as may be practicable, and to proceed with them to this place —

I have only further to observe that there are ten thousand Men to the Southward in the Company's pay doing Nothing —

I am,
Sir,
Your most Obd.t
Servant,
Eyre Coote.

Translation.

Nagore
1st March 1781

Too Fort St. George 19th March 1781.

My Dear Doctor,

I must have written you at least twenty Letters since my arrival here, ten by the Pappa and the rest by Sea, many of which have miscarried — I depend very little on the former Conveyance and as to the latter I am the more assured of the uncertainty of it, as Mayor on his arrival here made me a thousand Reproaches on your part as the Letter will certainly be delivered to you by Palmer I will recapitulate the Contents of my previous ones — after what we experienced in that Country Egypt, we flattered ourselves we had reason every to imagine that our adverse Fortune would at an end; it however accompanied us across the Sea, and raised in the Person of Sadder Cawn Governor of Calicut for Hyder ally Cawn, the Tyrant who gave us the Cruelest grace. The poor Natives was siezed on pretence that she was English Property; our Passengers were thrown in Irons and a Guard of Sepoys was placed over Chinnah & myself — We remained six Months at Calicut, addressing the most earnest Representations to the Governor without Effect — Our English Passengers sent Prisoners to Chiangapatam, and We returned ourselves very happy to obtain Permission to proceed from Calicut to Tranquebar in a Boat in the most dangerous Season of the Year — We arrived here about the End of June, and Chinnah being furnished with Letters by the Governor Abbotts, set out for the Coast of Hyder, in hopes to

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Fort St George 19th March 1781

to restore the Vessel, but however permitted him to proceed to Calicut to recover what belonged to him, he accordingly repaired thither, as well with that View, as to settle other matters relative to the Vessel. accord

My Intention was to have returned to Bengal, but on advice being received from the Cape of the Arrival of a French Fleet destined for India, I deferred my Resolution — This is all which concerns myself let us now proceed to another Subject — You have heard without doubt of the Invasion of the Carnatic by Hyder, and of course with the Variety with which the Spirit of Party never fails to describe Events — My Account of this affair will perhaps be also deemed partial, but I write what I see and know — The Siege of Tellichery by the Subjects of Hyder since the Month of September 1779 — the English Resident at Calicut having been expelled some time before — the Seizure of our Vessel supposed to have been English Property the Passengers confined as such — a thousand Insults from this Prince to the English; his public Correspondence with the Isle of France; — his immense Preparations — in Short his March from his Country with a Numerous Army — all seemed to Announce to the English the Storm which threatened them — every Circumstance urged them to prepare for his Reception — By assembling in Time the Several Corps of the Army, and drawing Troops from all the Garrisons throughout an immense Extent of

Country

Fort St. George 19th March 1781

Country. They might have been able in the space of twenty five Days to have formed an Army capable of being a Check on him, and to have prevented his performing any thing of consequence — However Rumbold who long foresaw the approaching Storm retired with his Treasures and left affairs to be accommodated by some old Wigs, who he was sensible were unequal to the Task, and the old Wigs were struck with astonishment on being informed on the 7th of July that Porto Nove had been plundered under their very Noses — this Event ought to have roused them from their long Lethargy but People sleep sound on Bags of Pagodas — Instead of exerting themselves, they pretended, maintained and wrote to all Quarters that if Porto Nove had been plundered, it had not been done by Hyder who surely never would dare to make War on the English, but by some Robbers who came but for the time, and had since disappeared — Two days after, that Hyder under the Title of Nabob of the Carnatick had forced his Way with Fire and Sword to the Gates of the Golden Calf they worshipped / by filling all for the Instant the English roused themselves rubbing their Eyes promised him a speedy Chastisement — Nonetheless with the Accounts of the powerful Preparation making on all Sides to punish this heedless Blockhead, who had dared to molest the English — their Accounts ever reached Bungle, for the Day after the Defeat of Colonel

Fort St. George 19th. March 1781

Colonel Baillie, Joind with a Rhapsody entitled
I think the Calcutta Gazette, in Which the Rhapsodist Rhaps.
endeavouring to lay all possible Emphasis on this his
Stile, which was naturally dull and insipid, announ-
-ced to the whole Universe that General Munro had
set out from Madras to take plunder and burn the
capital Town of Hyder's Dominions — How curious
was the Contrast occasioned on one side by the contras
Gasconades of the English, and on the other by the
sudden and unexpected Arrival of General Munro
at the Great Mount quite exhausted with his
forced March from Conjeveram after having been
Witness of the Defeat of Colonel Baillie — advice
having been received in the Month of November,
that Arcott and its Fort had surrendered to Hyder,
that Velore was invested the taking of which Place
the English could only effect by Treachery after
a Siege of two Years, and a fruitless Expence — and
that a Number of other Places were daily falling;
the English perceived the Necessity of balancing these
continual Losses by Successes of some sort so
that all the Letters written from Madras, Tanjore
Trichinopoly, Cuddalore &c. mentioned the taking of
Poonah, the Capital of the Mahrattas, and those
from Bengal announced the Rejoicings occasioned
by the Defeat of La Motte Piquet, whom God preserve
has never yet been vanquished, by the Destruction
of a Spanish Fleet of thirty Sail, which has never
been destroyed, and by the taking of Carolina,
which has never been effected — To conclude, General
Coote arrived, preceded by a Reputation of which

Le

Fort St. George 19th March 1781

Lieutenant Brathwaite, but accompanied by five Troops
However the Report was circulated that he had
brought 15,000 Bengal Sepoys — The hopes of
the English now revived, their Bravadoes recommenced
and they assumed that Peace was concluded with
the Mahrattas, they also added that the army
under General Goddard in conjunction with that of
the Mahrattas were in full March to invade
the Territories of Hyder in Short they deemed Hyder
ruined — Notwithstanding all which Hyder
continued to take Possession of the Country possessed
the Siege of Vellore, and ravaged the Environs of
Madras — His Generals advanced even to the
Banks of the Coleroon, and all Communication
by Land with Madras was cut off — At length
it was proclaimed with all possible Pomp that
the Generals Coote, Munro and Macleod had
set out from the Great Mount to fall on
Cuddalore Reports were presently circulated that
Parties of Cavalry had been cut off and that
Forts had been taken In Short by their Accounts
Hyder was dishearten'd, annihilated and confounded
Happily the arrival of nine Ships of the Line
diverted their Attention from him for some time
These Ships which have just sailed for the coast
of Africa were the Ld Orient of 74 Guns, the Brilliant
Ajax, the Bizarre and the Sphinx of 64, the
Flamande of 50. the Consolante of 40. the Subtle
of 22, a Sloop of 8, and an English Prize they
left Mauritius on the 14th of October to Cruize off the

they pressed

accounts

Brillant

retr

the East Coast, and in the Straits of China, and had a mind to see what was passing in India — They were struck with Astonishment to find every thing in Confusion, and the Power of the English in a declining State, but as they had received positive orders to return to the Islands by the Month of March they could not venture to land any of their People. They depend on being back again by the Month of June with Troops — I hope to God they will come, but it makes my Heart bleed to see such a favorable opportunity neglected as will not perhaps ever offer itself again — Is India then forever destined to be the Theatre of our bad Conduct and Disgrace ? Whether General Coote imagined that this Squadron had brought Troops whose Debarkation it was necessary to prevent, or whether, as some People pretend he sought his Retreat through Design — He arrived at Pondicherry with a Part of his Army fatigued and in Want of Provisions on the 7th Instant. This Event was a new Triumph for the Partizans of the English, but of as short Duration as those which preceded it; for two days after We learnt that this same General Coote had just reached Cuddalore pursued by the whole of Hyder's Army — He is now shut up there, and in want of Provisions — In short We are perhaps on the Eve of being Witnesses to a Repetition of the affair of Saratoga in India — I should not behold such an Event with Pleasure, for although it may not be easy to foresee the

Length

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Lengths to which a Man of Hyder alky Cavis
Character might proceed, yet We must acknow-
ledge that the Indian Princes have had the
strongest Reasons for these thirty Years past to
detest the Government of Europeans, which though
favorable to the Commerce, yet is prejudicial
to those in exalted Stations — The Government
the English has been throughout are continued
Scene of Robbery they have conducted themselves as
they had been in a conquerd Country which they
never seriously intended to preserve; unreasonable and
extravagant Fortunes are amassed there by every spe-
of Contrivance — The Princes have been insulted, de-
-sid, and ruined — Foreign Soldiers have been em-
which is just creating Enemies and furnishing them
with Weapons. Now perhaps the Hatred of the
People and the Armies they have against will wear
their Vengance on the Europeans — Already the Danes
and Dutch have suffered, and the remaining Two
are very much exposed a Ship belonging to the
Emperor was lately plundered at Porto Nova — In
short there is no knowing on which side to turn for
the whole Country is in Arms — Were the English
General to prove unsuccessful and yield up the
entire Possession of the Choromandal Coast to
Hyder, What would become of us? It is al
present reported that the English have effected
a Peace with the Mahrattas, who will not
sail to invade the Dominions of Hyder — such
a Diversion might be of assistance to their Cause,

but

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but I doubt if the Nabob (Hyder) would relinquish his attempt — after all I am apprehensive that General Coote, this brave General who conducted himself with such Generosity towards our Nation the last War, may fall at Cuddalore a Victim to the contemptible administration of Rumbold and some of his Predecessors

— To pass from India to Europe I must acknowledge to you that Mayer has made me laugh very heartily in relating to me some of your patriotic Whims. He says that you are melancholy every time the English make Rejoicings for Successes at Sea which they never gained. What would you do then had they really experienced them? as for me Dear Friend, I myself heard the Salute of 100 Guns fired at Fillichery for an undoubted and compleat Victory gained I don't know when by the English, the French Ships had been taken, burnt, and the rest driven on Shore: the Duke De Chartres and the Count D'Estaing were killed — All this was certified and attested in the fullest manner by the Elders of a Mr Church Chief at Fillichery to all his Neighbours, to whom he also affirmed that the French Nation was held in Contempt by all Europe — you my Dear Friend would have hanged yourself — but I laughed so much, that I can't even now refrain from laughing whenever I think on it — The Fact is my Friend that France has at this present time indifferent parts of the World above 100 Ships of the Line in Commission and on Service — The English Fleets remained in their Harbours the greatest part of

were,

the

708 Fort St George 19th March 1779

The Year 1779 In May or June 1780 our Grand Fleet had on board 3,500 land Troops commanded by Mr De Rochambard and there was not an extraordinary Tax of a Penny for the Support of the War; our Finances are admirably regulated, those of the English must be in a very different State — If the French can but once obtain equal Power at Sea the numerous Fleets of the English will instantly become an object of Expence which they will soon find it very difficult to provide for, on Account of the Diminution of their Re=sources — Like a good Frenchman I rejoice to see the English persist in a War, that will reduce them to such a Degree as to render them unable to recommence Hostilities for a considerable length of time — Let us then take Patience my Dear Doby, and don't make yourself unhappy when you see the English rejoice — Let me often hear from you and some News of our Friends at Chandernagor. Present my Respects to Mrs Supple

I am,

Your most Obedient

Humble Servant,

(signed) W. Remol,

Chandernagore.

Pondichery.

15th February 1781 —

PS Mrs Sumner desires her Compliments. Don't shew my Letter to the English, they would look upon me as an old Dotard.

The Committee approve of the Sentiments expressed by the General in his Letter to Bombay and General Goddard and in consequence

Fort St George 14th March 1781

The Committee approve of the Gov.ts Sentiments in his Letters to Bombay.

of his recommendation of a Diversion on the side of Arcott it is resolved that a Letter be addressed to Brigadier General Stuart desiring his opinion as to the Practicability of the Scheme, it is likewise agreed that Lieut.s Bishop, Lind, & Ensign Moore be promoted in the manner recommended by the Genrol.

Read the following Letter from Sir Eyre Coote dated 12th March Rec.d the 14th

To the Honble Charles Smith Esqr.

President and Governor &c. Select Committee

Fort St George.

Gentlemen,

From Sir Eyre Coote inclosed Copy of Correspondence between Mr. Hudleston and the Governor of Nagapatam, inimical Conduct of the Dutch, recommends that money be drawn from the Northward, practicability of a Diversion towards Arcot Hyder has removed his heavy Baggage from that Fort —

I did myself the honor of writing to you fully under date the 7th instant by the Ship Hydra to which I must beg leave to refer.

I inclose for Your information Copies of the following Letters

From Reinier Van Wesopingen Esqr. Governor of Negapatam to Mr. Hudleston your President at Nagore requiring an unmolested passage for the Netherlands Deputies to Hyder ally Town this the English bounds at that Place.

The President's answer refusing a compliance without my orders —

My Letter to the Dutch Governor on the Subject likewise to Mr. Hudleston

As these Letters are in themselves sufficiently explicit and communicative of my Sentiments on the business to which they relate I shall only add one remark regarding the Conduct of the

Fort St George 19th March 1781

far

of the Dutch. That they have shown themselves
less scrupulous in consulting the pleasure of
Hyder Ally than they have in Contributing in
any shape to our Relief — or the Contrary in the
difficulties which they throw in the way of
Mr Hudlestons removing his own property in
Arrack and Rice from Negapatam to this
Place for the use of the Army they evidently
discovered a Disposition to distress us and
consequently a Desire to favor the Enemy —
Should they however in the course of their present
negociations do any thing of a nature more directly
injurious to the Interests of the British Nation
and the English East India Company I shall
certainly exact such redress as their Actions may
authorize and Vindicate. In my Letter of the 9th
I observed to you that I conceived you might still
draw part of the Money laying at the Northern
Settlements to the Presidency, notwithstanding the
Governor General & Council had by the Orders
they had sent concerning the Supply of the Detach-
ment coming from Bengal endeavoured to Anticipat
these Resources, and I am still of opinion that you
should lose no time in giving orders for the whole
to be sent you — For if the only funds which
you can command for the support of the military
on this Establishment / and to which they are inade-
quate / are liable to be encroached upon for
the support of part of the Bengal Army, we
shall

Fort St George 19th March 1781

I shall soon be in a melancholly situation, as it bespeaks inability in the Bengal Government to defray the Military Expences; which is the more to be regretted as I learn that a large proportion of the sum which it has been customary to set apart from the Bengal Revenues for the Company's Investment has not been provided for, altho' in former Years the Bengal Resources were equal to both, and left a balance in the Treasury — the cause of so great a change in what so Essentialy concerns the Company's Interests I must leave it to be accounted for by those who have had the care and Management of their finances. I must content myself with representing to the Bengal Government the Necessity there is for supporting the Army here, especially that part which belongs to the Bengal Establishment, now you must be sensible Gentlemen I have it not in my power to do towards relieving our Distresses on this Coast.

As to the good effects produced in the Carnatic by the operations of the Campaign it ought to be the business of the Nabob to take care that they are managed on such a Manner as to be of public utility and that the Revenue which may arise from the Country be applied to the support of the Army on which every thing now depends — as far as I have taken the lead in the District of Carnguly I have made his Highness fully acquainted with it, and he seems to be perfectly satisfied, that it should be continued in the manner I have prescribed until the Campaign

I shall

Fort St George 10th March 1783

Shall be over By this non interference I flatter
myself that I shall get together a good Stock of
grain for the Carangaly Garrison, and the service
of the Army; should it at any time move that way
If I may be allowed to judge from the manner
in which the Aumil introduced at Carangaly
has behaved in distressing the Enemys Agents &
the Country all around that place I conceive very
little more is wanting, but a proper Degree of
Countenance and Authority to enable the Nabob
Amils to Reestablish his Influence over all the
Country where Hyder is not very near and in short
Shulomber Pillah the Man to whom I gave
Charge at Caringuley has raised about a Thousand
Carnatic Peons, with whom he has already dared
to assume an Authority in the Country contiguous
to Conjeveram, this is an instance which ought
to prove to his Highness that there was some
fundamental Error in his Government of the
Country otherwise the Inhabitants would not
have so speedily forsaken his Interests

These Transactions of the
Caringuley Renter are to Me a Convincing proof
that what I suggested in my last of making
a Diversion towards Arcot is not only practicable
but must be Successful and attended with but
little Risk, whilst it will serve to ascertain
a point very necessary for us to know whether Hyder
intends to Maintain himself in the Carnatic, for

my

Fort St George 19th March 1781.

my own opinion I think he does not, and that has given up all thoughts of it long since, and now that Brigadier General Goddard has been successful against the Mahrattas of which I am told he has received Accounts as well as his Highness the Nabob it will be the means of fixing him in that mind, Indeed I have intelligence that he has already Ordered away all his heavy Baggage to the Gaults together with a Battering train of 25 pieces which only arrived in his Camp from Arcot three or four days ago but what is surprizing I had no advices until they had absolutely reached his army which is a strong proof how ill we are served on the score of Intelligence and I confess I should have felt such a Circumstance as a very heavy misfortune if I had had it in my power by knowing it to have taken advantage of it, If Hyder moves towards the Gaults or takes up a Station near his own Country I cannot remain where I am after I have not now carriage for more than one days Rice for the fighting People, and four days more I can carry on the Men's backs — The hope I have of remedying this Inconvenience is that Hyder's Movement may leave open to me the Communication with the Tanjore Country from hence. If I am well informed and the Rajah Acts up to his assurances I shall be able to supply myself — In the Interim I shall make it my business to

Act

714 Fort St. George 19th March 1781

Act in such a manner as may tend most to
distress the Enemy —

I ought when treating of a Diversion
towards Arcot, to have further mentioned it as my
opinion that I do not think Hyder would venture
under his present circumstances to send a Body
of Troops from his Army that could injure such
a Detachment as might be formed from Madras,
on which I have communicated my Sentiments
to General Stuart, so far I can assure you
from the repeated opportunities I have had
since the commencement of the Campaign, that
his Horse are in no shape formidable; on the
contrary they have ever retired before our People
however inferior as to the Numbers, and when
they have dared to stand they have generally
suffered whilst our people receive no hurt In
this business however your own intelligence with
regard to what Force is either in or about Arcot
must be your guide, and as I recommended in my
last Letter it will be well to Consult Lt Col.
Lang on the Subject, who from the Country
of his Situation must be able to give you the
best information By Authentic Intelligence
I have received the Garrison of Arnee Consists
only of 600 Matchlock people, 4 Guns, 2 Howitzers
2 Horses, and 2 Mortars and most of the Stores
taken from Lieut. Col. Baillie's Detachment — I am
sorry to inform you that the Officers and Soldiers
are very ill treated having only Rice & Ghee for
their

Fort S.t George 19.th March 1781

their Subsistence, and nothing either to cover them or to Lay upon ——

I am afraid that very little Grain is brought in to Chingleput, and that proper Steps have not been taken to procure it, as it is of the utmost importance as well for the maintenance of that Garrison in case of any emergency, as for the Services of the Army in the Event of its moving that way, and which circumstances may render necessary when least expected, I must therefore Recommend it to you as a Matter Worthy of your immediate and most serious attention to throw a large quantity of Grain into that place ——

I Apprehending that the assistance of another Vessel might be of great service in expediting the embarkation of the Troops I ordered the Amazon to proceed from Porto Novo to Nagore, from whence I have received no accts since my last, but I expect them hourly, the Amazon was disappointed in taking the Vessels she was sent against by Enemies having towed her into the River under the Cover of the fire of the People on the Shore ——

in

accounts

I have been informed that a Man by Name Venkatty Row who was employed in the Management of the Country around Vandiwash on behalf of the Nabobs Son in Law absconded over to the Enemy and by his Treachery had very near been the cause of the Loss of the Garrison

716. Fort St George 19th March 1784

Garrison of Vandewash is again interm[ed]iate to
that part of the Country and in the Name of
the Nabob assumes an Authority in it — whether
he is supported in this Conduct by his High-
-ness or any of his Family or Dependants I cannot
possibly know, however I should think it would
be proper to make him acquainted with the Circum-
-stance, that he may not permit a Man of such infamous
Character and Conduct to remain in the exercise of
any trust in the affairs of the Country; if he does
it will be impossible that this Government can
ever be reestablished: my own opinion is that
he should immediately take Steps for Seizing
him and for bringing him to condign punishment.

The Troops begin to grumble
for their Last Month's pay. I conjure you therefore
to Supply Your Paymaster with Money as speedily
as possible — If it is not done I will not be
answerable for what may be the Consequences —

I have the Honor to be,
Gentlemen,
Your most Obdt
Humble Servt
Eyre Coote.

Camp Newtown.
12th March 1784.

To John Hudleston Esqr
Chief of Nagore Carical & Dependancies for
the Honble East India Company &c. &c. &c.
Sir,

I request you would be so kind to
Nagore

Fort St George 19th March 1781

give the necessary Orders that the Netherlands Company Deputies to the Nabob Hyder Ally Cawn Bahauder with their baggage, Servants, and escort Armed Seapoys may pass your Territories without molestation; they shall leave this place tomorrow —

I have the honor to be with Esteem,

Sir,

Your most Humble Obed.t Servant,

R. V. Vlissingen.

Negapatam
4. March 1781.

To the Honble R. V. Vlissingen Esq.r

Director General for all affairs of the Netherlands Company and Governor of Negapatam —

Honble Sir,

I am honord with your Letter of this Date. In the present Situation of affairs I cannot consent to your deputies passing thro these Bounds to the Nabob Hyder Ally without Orders from the Commander in Chief, to whom I shall immediately transmit a Copy of your Letter and advise you of his answer the Moment it arrives. I hope this delay will be of no Material consequence.

and have the honor to be with Respect and Esteem,

Honble Sir

Your most Obedient Humble Servant,

John Studleston,

Tegnapatam
6th March 1781.

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To His Excellency Sir Eyre Coote, K.B.
Lt Genl & Commander in Chief of the British
Forces in India.

Sir,

I have the honor to transmit you
Copy of a Letter I have Received from the Govnor
of Negapatam with my answer and request the
favor of your orders on the Subject. It is with
infinite pleasure I inform you that I have good
hopes Should the Wind change the Sangors
detachment will be embarked in 5 days from the
time, Capt Lamotte has Received your Orders and
is on his march to this place, the Success Galley
Hastings and Sally Salam are here and the Anna
is hourly expected, and I have taken up a Ship
at Negapatam which I hope will be here soon
=now the Sally Salam I detaind with the
commence of Mssrs Davidson & Sourdan. We
are in constant expectation of a change of wind,
till that happens it will be prudent to detain
the Sloops in Shoa in order that the Sepoys may
not be on board a moment longer than is necessary
I shall endeavor to obviate very difficulty by
embarking their Women and Baggage with
them, if the Must it, and Supplying them with
every convenience, and Should they demand an
advance of pay I will try to borrow a Sum of money
at Negapatam to accommodate them, any Sum

they

rances

Lord

719. Fort St George 19th March 1781.

Sir

Sir being at a very low ebb; the Hastings and her prize are loaded, and I shall send as much Grain to the other Vessels as the time can possibly admit

I have the honor to be with great Respect,

Sir,

Your most Obdient,
Humble Servant,
John Huddleston

Nagore Redoubt,
4th March 1781.

To John Huddleston Esqr

Resident at Nagore.

Sir,

I have received your Letter of the 4th Instant with copies of one Addressed to you by the Govr of Negapatam and your reply inclosed, I have in consequence myself written a Letter to Mr Van Olpengen which I have open for your perusal and information and request you will afterwards forward it to him as the I have as you will observe called upon him in the most formal Terms to explain the object of the present Deputation, and in granting leave to its passing tho' your Bounds have visited much upon his candor, yet as I place no great faith in the Sincerity of the Dutch in Cases when their own Interests is concerned I shall depend upon your keeping a Watchful Eye over their Conduct, and inform me of such parts of it as may hereafter appear to you Mysterious or improper

your

his

The hopes you give me of your being able speedily to accomplish the embarkation

have

720. Fort St George 19th March 1781

have afforded me much Satisfaction and also the prospect there is of getting a handsome supply of Grain —

Camp New Town
2 March 1781

I am, Sir
Your Obedt Servt
Eyre Coote

To the Honble Reinier Van Vlissingen Esqr
Director General for the affairs of the Dutch Company and Governor of Negapatam
Sir,

I have received a Letter from Mr. John Hudleston President at the Honble English East India Company's Factory at Nagore inclosing me copy of one addressed from you to him demanding a free passage for the Netherlands Company's Deputies to the Nabob Hyder Ally Cawn Bahauder with their Baggage, Servants, &a &a thro' the English Bounds belonging to that Place — To which Mr Hudleston informs me that he has refused his assent without the Sanction of my Orders — a Reference which was not only his Duty to make but was the more Necessary as your Letter to him in no Shape explains the purposes for which it had been Resolved to send Deputies to Hyder Ally, who is now acting in enmity to the Crown of the English Company, and His Britannick Majesty —

The Respect which I bear to the long
and

Fort St. George 19th March 1781

and uninterrupted friendly Intercourse which has Subsisted between the Dutch and English Companies in India, and the Regard which on every Occasion I have been desirous to testify to the most important Connection which for so many Years had remained unbroken between the Crown of Great Britain and the Representatives of the United Provinces will not allow me hastily to draw Conclusions of the Resolution you have come to of sending Deputies to Hyder Ally Cawn being with any Sinister View tending to injure either the affairs of the English East India Company or the British Nation However entrusted as I am by the Commission I hold both from the King and the Company to guard their Honor & Interests in this Country and engaged as I now am in the discharge of that Trust, I would deem myself reprehensible in the highest degree did I tacitly acquiesce in any measure which appeared to militate against both, or which in its Consequences might prove injurious to them — I must therefore as a Duty incumbent upon me call upon you to know the purposes intended from the Deputation you have Resolved on sending to Hyder Ally Cawn — Induced upon the same ties which have dissuaded me from drawing unfavorable Conclusions on this Occasion, also inducing you to send me a fair and candid relation of the cause and objects of the Embassy in question — and the most Authentic public testi-

monies

conclu-sions

hold

conse-quences.

ties

Fort St. George 14th March 1781

monies that it is in no Shape intended either now or at any future period eventually to favor the operations or Interests of Hyder Ally Cawn to the prejudice of those of the British Nation and English East India Company — on these Conditions in faith of your Compliance with them and in the belief that you have no other views in sending the Deputies but that of endeavouring to obtain redress of the Injuries done to both your Public and Private Property by the Depredations of Hyder Ally's Troops, and which I am encined to learn your Settlement has suffered from in common with the other European Nations, I chearfully consent to your Deputies having an unmolested passage thro the English Bounds of Nagore, but that on their Return they on no Account bring any people belonging to the Enemy by that road with them —

at the same time I have by acquainting on certain conditions to the Deputies from the Netherlands Company passing thro the English bounds at Nagore to Hyder Ally Cawn given what might be construed by your=self and the World into a proof of my approval of the Measure I must in Justice to my own Sentiments declare that I think it would have better suited the Dignity and Credit which the Dutch Nation and the Netherlands

Company

Fort St. George 14th March 1781

Company bear amongst the European Powers to have
repelled the Insults of a set of Freebooters headed
by a Man who however formidable in the Numbers
he Commands, has carefully withdrawn himself
beyond the Range of the Operations of an Army
greatly inferior in that Respect, and which has repeat-
edly dared him to Battle — I shall expect your
immediate answer —

Camp New Town
8th March 1781.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your most Obedient
Humble Servant.
Eyre Coote.

Signed
A True Copy
Geo Taylor.

Sentiments of the Committee on the above Letter —

The Committee concur in opinion with
the General in regard to the Dutch whose Conduct
of late has been so suspicious that they think it
highly deserves his attention —

Read the following Letter from Lt.
General Sir Eyre Coote dated the 14th March and Recd
the 17th —

To the Honble Charles Smith Esqr
President and Governor &c. Select Committee
Gentlemen,
Fort St George.

From Sir Eyre Coote
inclosing Copies of
Letters from Mr.

You are already fully informed of the
difficulties

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Fort St. George 19th March 1781

Hudleston relative to the embarkation of the Reinforcement from Tanjore & also various Papers concerning the State of the Army the want of Bullocks makes him despair of any Success against the Enemy.

difficulties to which the Army was exposed until the Supply of Provisions was sent me from Madras I enclose for your information a Statement delivered to me by the Agent specifying the quantity actually recived by him, expended and in balance what was ought to be forth coming agreeable to your dispatches from the Presidency neither myself nor the Agent can possibly tell as no Invoices of their Cargoes have been sent I know there is still Rice on board both the Amazon and Success Galley but I am ignorant of the quantity —

I have already acquainted you of my having sent the Success Galley and Amazon to assist in the embarkation of the reinforcement had ordered from Tanjore for this Army you will be fully informed by the enclosed Copies of Letters from Mr. Hudleston what has happened in the execution of this Business — To be disappointed so it too evidently appears I shall be in the Complement of men which I promised myself by the above means is a most cruel circumstance and when added to other Inconveniences which I am subject to in carrying on the Service makes me sure to acknowledge myself incapable of doing Justice either to the public or my own Military Character

I enclose you the Agent's Report of the quantity of provisions which he can carry for the use of the Army Viz: 12 days for the Europeans,

and

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and one day for the Seapoys and followers — The
insufficiency of this for either Corps to Attempt
any Military Service of importance in the present
State of the Country, and without Magazines to have
recourse to is too self evident to Require any comment
from me — The Draft Bullocks too for the
Artillery are Reported to me by the Officers of that
Corps to be in general in so weak a Condition from
want of feeding as hardly to be equal to draws the
Guns for one days March —

Surely Gentlemen when I was
called upon as well from Duty as from inclination
to Superintend the Military Operations on this
Coast, it was not also expected of me that I should
supply those Articles necessary to put an Army
in motion It is what neither does nor can belong
to my Station, and which it is absolutely necessary
I should point out to you especially at a time of
Service, when I am liable to be called upon every
moment in my Military Capacity to act in
opposition to what may be the operations of the
Enemy — and in which if any thing should appear
wanting it is my Character that will immediately
suffer, and not the Characters of those who either
fill or Superintend those Departments from
whence my obstacles chiefly Originate — In short
Gentlemen, I must under such Conditions declare
myself unequal to the Task of ever Marching your
Army, far less of encountering or Watching the
Motions

726 Fort St. George 19th March 1781

Motions of the Enemy's Army, which is so much superior in Numbers, and so well found in every requisite that can promise Success

I am sorry that none of the Indiamen have yet been sent down to this I before expected a wish for their coming here, it was not without a conviction of the Services they might render the Army, but of the Utility they would be of in protecting the Trade of the Coast against the ravages of the Armed boats belonging to Hyder at Porto Novo. the want of them is now experienced a Pepil laden with different Articles of Provision and Sixteen Elephants coming to this Place was this Morning taken by Hyder's Vessels off Porto Novo — Had I had but one Indiaman this Capture might easily have been recovered or prevented by having stationed her off that Port — an Indiamen too would have been very serviceable in keeping off the Settlement of Nagore, to which it would have been a great protection, as well as a Secure retreat for the Gentlemen of the Factory and the Garrison in case of being hard pressed by the Enemy —

I must not omit to mention that the Cavalry also are in a most miserable Condition for want of Grain, notwithstanding there is so handsome an Allowance made for feeding them.

If some assistance is not given me in those essential points I must quit a Scene from whence I can neither derive Honor for myself nor do Justice to the public

I have the Honor to be

Gentlemen

Your

727 Fort St. George 19th March 1781

Camp New Town
14th March 1781

Your most Obedient
Humble Servant
Eyre Coote,

An Account of Rice received at Cuddalore and Served out to the Army from 12th Febry to 13th March 1781.

Served out.	Bags	Received.	Bags
To the Black Troops &a	7610	From Madras 3 Vessels	2314
To Balance Rem. at Cuddalore 5039.		From Madras Snow Hyder	2936
Rem. at Camp 1788.	6827	From do. Success Galley	1022
		From do Snow Amazon	810
		From Tranquebar Snow Polly	101
		From Nagore Snow Hastings	1054
		From do pl[illegible] by Boat	200
Total Bags	14437	Total Bags	14437

R. Maunsell
agent.

A Report of the Quantity of Provisions which the Agent can carry for the use of the Army.

Rice 24 Bags sufficient for the Europeans for 12 days
Salt 40 Bags sufficient for do. for 12 days
Arrack 25 Hhds sufficient for do. for 12 days.
Do. 5 do. for extraordinary Drams
Biscuit 40 Bags for do.
Rice 300 Bags sufficient for 21,000 men for 1 day.

R. Maunsell
Agent.

Copy

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/Copy/

His Excellency Sir Eyre Coote K.B.
Lt General and Commander in of the British forces
in India.

Sir,

It is impossible for me to express the concern I feel in acquainting you that notwithstanding the seeming chearful acquiesence shewn by the Seapoys Yesterday evening on the parade, a most extraordinary desertion has taken place to day, owing to an infamous report industriously Circulated /it is said/ by some Seapoys of the 9th Battalion that our telling the Troops they were going to Cuddalore was only a trick to induce them to go on board, and that our real design was to send them to Surat or Bombay, in Consequence whereof no fewer than almost 400 Seapoys deserted last Night, and this Morning, a great many of them are said to be gone to the Dutch bounds, and I have written to that Government demanding them to be delivered up, but I expect without any hopes, for the present Conduct of the Dutch towards us is really little short of absolute hostility, and they will I doubt not make a merit with Hyder of detaining our Seapoys. The enclosed is a Copy of my Letter / Every other effort has been made and is now making for bringing them back. Capt. Lamotte himself & Lt Cram, who Commands the 12th Battalion, have been round to the adjacent Villages, as yet however only two deserters have been brought

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Enclosed in The Desertion from the different Corps is as follows The Grenadier Company of the 12th 1 Havildar 19 Seapoys, the Artillery 1 The 9th Batt. 4 Havildars 5 Naigues 219 Seapoys, The 18th Batt. 117 Seapoys

But there seems to be great reason to believe that the desertion has been caused by the Seapoys of the 9th, as it has been discovered that several of that Batt. upbraided some of the 18th for having agreed to embark and said that they otherwise never would have consented Capt Sandys & Lt Cram have sent out several of their own Commissioned Officers to the Villages to endeavor to find their Men, and forward on them to return to their Duty, on offering pardon to all that may return by 12 o'Clock Tomorrow, and assuring them in the most solemn manner from me as well as their Commanding Officer, that there never was an intention of sending them to Bombay, or any other place than Cuddalore, I have also sent out People different ways for the same purpose and intend to have four Tom Toms beat in every Village — one Division of the Troops embarked this morning and this great desertion was not fully known till this afternoon, I consulted with Mr Davidson & Mr Sourdan on what was best to be done, and we all agreed it would be most advisea=able to embark the remainder of the Troops immediately if possible, accordingly they were marched to the Water side about 6 o'clock and most of them are embarked, the remainder of them will be on board in the course of the Night, while I am now writing word is brought to me that upwards of 20 Seapoys of the 10th are returned, which gives

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gives me hopes that more will follow their example.
I shall detain the Vessel a little longer on that
account, 50 Bullock Loads of Grain and 1000 pair
of Shoes arrived here this evening, and will be
Shipped in the Morning. I have tried to procure
Shoes from Negapatam, but in Vain — Mr Desaugé
writes me from that Place the Dutch on the applica-
tion of Maroum to detain Vessel proceed from Negapatam
with some Rice, she has had on board some time,
answerd that he must immediately land all the
Rice and they would then consider whether they
would permit his Vessel to proceed Mr Desauge
adds he is convinced they will not — this is the
Conduct of a people whose Settlement two years
ago we saved from Starving — I am in Hourly
expectation of your Orders relative to this Settlement
I have the Honor to be with the greatest
Respect.

Negore
6th March 1781

&c &c &c

P Hudleston,

To the Honble Reinier Van Vlissingen Esqr
Director Genl for all affairs of the Netherlands
Company on the Coast of Choromandal &c &c
Council of

Negapatam.

Honble Sir & Gentlemen,

I am informed that many of the
Seapoys lately arrived here to be embarked for
Cuddalore to join the Army have deserted to
Negapatam and Villages within your Bounds all the
upon a late application from me for Seapoy deserters
You

Fort St George 19th March 1781

you declined delivering them up, alledging that they were not included in the Cartel, I hope you will take into your serious Consideration the Consequences that may result from your Receiving at such a time as the present so great a number of our Troops — The Cartel evidently implies the black Troops as well as Europeans, for the intention was to secure both the Companies from the desertion of their Troops, and I must therefore in the Name of the English East India Company demand of you the delivering up of the Seapoy Deserters, remarking that your refusal to deliver them up may be deemed an intention on your part to invalidate the Cartel.

I have the Honor to be respectfully

Nagore, 6th March, 1781.

Honble Sir & Gentlemen,

Your most Obed!

Humble Serv!

[Signed] T Hudleston

Sentiments of the Committee thereon

The Committee are concerned to perceive the Desertion which has prevailed among the Seapoys, when ready to embark at Nagore to join the Army, and the Impediments the General meets with from want of Grain, and the bad Condition of his Bullocks, which they are using every means in their Power to remedy, by the Supply of the above Articles, which are now shipping on the Grosvenor, and other Vessels for the use of the Army — Read the following Letter from Sir Eyre Coote dated the 16th March and received the 18th.

T.

732 Fort St George 14th March 1788

To The Hönble Chas Smith Esqr
President & Govr &c &c Select Committee

Gentlemen Fort St George

From Sir Eyre Coote upon Intelligence for the Coast of Nagore his Distrepful Situation for want of Bullock and Money —

I have the pleasure to acquaint you that the Success Galley with other Vessels with a reinforcement of about 650 Men including all Ranks and denominations arrived last night and this Morning from Nagore — Numbers of the Seapoys who deserted on the Embarkation have gone to Tanjore and upon a promise of pardon have come into Col. Brathwaite —

The Enemy by my intelligence of this Morning have crossed the Coleroon in force Mr Hudleston has been long apprehensive of an attack upon his Redoubt, and I fear it will prove that he has not been so without reason The want of the Indiamen is now most severely felt, and I cannot help expressing myself much disappointed at their not coming — It may be the cause of the total loss of the Gentlemen and Troops at Nagore —

It doubtless has not escaped your memory that to provide for the Security of this Factory, as well as that of Nagore, were two principal motives urged when it was first resolved that the Indiamen should be employed along the Coast for the Service of the Army, It would give me as I doubt not it will also you, much

Concern

733. Fort St. George 19th March 1781

Concern Should the Factory of Nagore from not follow-
-ing the Original plan in as far as might
be in your power, fall into the Hands of the Enemy
I am now most cruelly situated — The
Enemy marching before me, and for want of carriage
for provisions unable to follow them, I stated this
to you fully in my Letter of the 14th; by which you
will learn I can hardly carry one days Provision
for the Army — The uninformed World will be
apt to Condemn the Tardiness of my motions &
which I am sorry to observe knowing what I
could do were I provided, as I ought to have
been, I feel as a severe blow to my honor and
Military Character. However I comfort myself
in the reflection that when the real State of them
comes to be more generally known, I shall be no
longer exposed to unmerited blame, either from
the Public or from Individuals —
My regard for the Honor,
Interest, and Welfare of the Nation is such, that
I shall exert every endeavor in my power to support
our affairs — But without Money, and without
the means of carrying Provisions, I see not what I
can do to that End —
I had written thus far when your
Letter of the 5th inst. arrived, wherein you are pleased
in the mention you make of the Supplies sent me
by the Success Galley & Vessels — to include
the Article of Money — The sum then sent me
Your

734 Fort St George 19th March 1781

you know well Gentlemen was only the Balance
of the Money I brought with me from Bengal,
and no part of it from your resources, which I
was hopeful would long ere now have afforded
some supply for your own Paymaster — Finding
the People rather clamorous, I contrived out of
that Money to advance him enough to pay
them up to the 15th of Febry, so that to the
present time the Army is a month in Arrears
I shall only add that I have no more money
to give them, and that if some is not speedily
sent, the Consequences may be ruinous, as to money
from the Southward, I see not the most distant
prospect of any coming from thence, but of this
you must be the best Judges, as you know how
far the Grounds upon which you have formed
your expectations are to be relied upon. I am-
sensible you must experience difficulties in
getting money, and I am lead from what you
yourselves say on that head to believe, that the
Nabob has paid no part of the Sum of Pag-
which I understood before I left the Mound,
he was to have supplied the beginning of last
Month —

By Intelligence I learn that the
Forts of Palamcottah and Verdachelum, like all
the rest of the Nabob's Forts, were given up on the
10th Inst. without being Hard pressed, Before
a Shot had been fired at either, I received Letters

Yours

735 Fort St George 19th March 1781

from both the Shalladars which plainly indicated that they had no desire of Maintaining the Garrison for they therein say "Should the Enemy come in force against them they would be obliged to give them up" I wrote answers to them both urging them strongly to defend them, and to send me constant information of their Situation and that when necessary I would relieve them, I inclose you a Letter from Colonel Nixon which I have opened and perused and which exhibits a further picture of our distresses, arising from the infamous Management of the Nabobs Government.

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

New Town,
16th March, 1781.

The Committee always considered the Treasure brought by the General from Bengal to be intended for the Payment of the Troops on this Establishment equally with those from Bengal — They therefore thought it unnecessary to make any Distinction in the Remittance made to the General by the Success Galley — they are sensible of his Situation, but their own Distresses for want of Money are but too evident from the large Arrears due to the Civil Servants, and the different Employs

Sentiments of the Committee on the above Letter —

Read the following Letter from the Adjutant General —

E

736 Fort St. George 19th March 1781

To the Secretary of the
Military Department

Sir

Fort St. George

From the Adjutant General with list of Promotions

I have the honor to inclose you by desire of the Commander in Chief in order to be laid before the Honble the President and Select Committee his Recommendation for the promotion of two Capts and eight Lieutenants of Infantry, and an Adjutancy lately vacated by the promotion of Lieut Gee to the rank of Captain, the promotions Recommended are in the room of Casualties that have happended since the last took place—

The General is desirous to have a Copy of the list of Cadets from England for the years 1779 & 1780, that the rank of the former may be published in General Orders, and that a promotion of Ensigns may be taken from the Latter to fill up the present vacancies of that rank in the Army—

I have also the honor to inclose by desire of the Commander in Chief, a Certificate for the promotion of Black officers, that the Commissions may be made out and sent to the Respective Corps as expeditiously as possible

I remain with Respect,
Sir,
Your very Ob.t Sev.t
Henry Malcolm
Adj.t Genl

Camp
Near Cuddalore
5th March 1781

137 Fort St George 19th March 1781

Promotions recommended by the Commander in Chief, Camp Near Cuddalore 5th March 1781.

Names	present rank	to what rank to be promoted	Date of Rank	Casualties since last promotion
George Mackay	Lieutenant	Captain	29th Novr 1780	Captain Woodhouse gone to Europe
Benjamin Bowen Bishop	do	do	30th do do	Captain Saml Welsford Dead.
Alexr Beatson	Ensign	Lieutenant	27th Novr 1780	Lieut George Mackay promoted.
Donald McDonald	do	do	28th do do	Ben. B. Bishop promoted
Henry Keating	do	do	29th do do	Rechd Anderson Dead.
Charles Corner	do	do	30th do do	John Watkins dead
William Kenny	do	do	1st Decr do	William Terry do
John Croley	do	do	2d do do	William Jones do
James Jones	do	do	3d do do	Thomas Young do
Robert McFerrand	do	do	4th do do	Jo. Elph. Dundas do

Ensign Arthur Gibbings to be Adjutant to the 8th Carnatic Battalion of Seapoys, in the room of Lieutenant James Gee promoted to a Company.

Eyre Coote

Mr James Tanner appointed Lt Fireworker.

738 Fort St. George 19th March 1781

Resolution thereon

Agreed that the Promotions recommended by the General do accordingly take place &

The President delivers in the following Minute —

The President lays before the Committee a Letter he has received from —

Sitteram Rauze,
Trippetty Rauze,
Juggapatty Rauze,
Mahput Raw.
and
Oppana Raw.

In answer to those wrote by him relative to raising Pike Men and Seapoys for the Public Service, by which the Committee will perceive these Zemindars do not shew any inclination to pay these Troops, and that little dependance can be placed on their Service

The President's minute relative to the Zemindars raising Troops for the public Service.

It is evident the present low state of the Treasury requires the utmost attention to all encrease of expences, and that the monthly charges of these Pike Men and undisciplined Seapoys will far exceed any Services they can render. Therefore as the Zemindars decline making any advances for their maintenance, the President proposes that Letters be written to the Chiefs of Masulipatam and Vizagapatam ordering them to direct the different Zemindars to disband immediately, the Seapoys and Pike Men they entertained, and desiring Mr. Casamajor to represent to Sitteram Rauze that he will render an essential Service by raising a Body of Horse to join Col. Pearse's detachment on its arrival at Vizagapatam

19th March, 1781.

Charles Smith

Read

739. Fort St. George 19th March 1781

Read the following Letters

The Honble Charles Smith Esqr

President & Select Committee at

Hond Sir & Sirs Fort St George.

From Bengal with Extract of a Letter from Vizagapatam concerning the Cash in their Treasury.

Having lately received a Letter from the Chief and Council at Vizagapatam of which the enclosed is an Extract, we cannot refrain from expressing our Surprize that our Request to them to detain the Balance in their Treasury for the Service of Col. Pearse's Detachment has not had greater Weight at a time when we are using every Exertion for the Support of the Interests of the Company, under your Charge, and for the Prosecution of the War in which your Presidency is engaged, we are astonished to find that Assistance should be refused by your own Servants, when it is in their Power to afford it. The Orders sent to them by you will we trust remove the Inconveniency, which their Non Compliance with our Desire may otherwise occasion.

We are, Hond Sir & Sirs,

Your most Obd.

humble Servants

Warren Hastings,

Edw.d Wheler

Fort William

8th Febry 1781

Extract.

No 40 Fort St George 19th March 1781

Extract of a Letter from the Chief and Council at Vizagapatam to the Honble the Governor General and Council dated 24th January 1781

Our Orders from the Presidency are pointed to send by every Means that may offer all the Money we may have in the Treasury as they have urgent Occasion for Cash. We conceive therefore we cannot take upon ourselves to disobey the Instructions received on this Head, Should an opportunity offer of a Remittance We have besides, but 2,25,000 Rupees left owing to the Bills taken up in favor of the Presidency, and Advances for Provisions and other Articles purchased to be sent to Madras, and our immediate Issues of Cash for our Disbursements and similar Occasions will in a few Days reduce the present Balance considerably. We have thus taken on ourselves to represent our Situation, lest an entire Dependence should be placed on our Treasury to supply Lieut Col Pearse's Detachment with money.

A true Copy
P C Hay
Act Secy

To the Honble Charles Smith Esqr
President and Governor &c. Select Committee
Honble Sir &c &c

From Capt Edrington
inclosing a Paper

The inclosed Extract I have

the

741 Fort St George 19th March 1781

Intelligence from Anjengo

The honor to transmit as taken from a letter, This instant received from the Resident of Anjengo.

I have this moment received the Commander in Chiefs Orders, to be in readiness to March on a Moments warning — the order dated Cuddalore the 10th Instant — I had prior to the Receipt of that order, determined to form a Detachment for the protection of the Grain, Travailed by the joint force of the Polgars, which would also promote, and in a great measure ensure the Collection of the Revenue, for the Company — as that plan will hardly retard the Execution of any Orders I may hereafter receive, I mean to put it in execution immediately, that my parties may be at their stations before the poligars actually begin, and in all probability it will prevent their attempting it entirely

I have the honor to be,

Hon'ble Sir &c &c,

Your Respectful

Obedt Servant,

James Edingtown.

Camp near Palamcotah 17th Febry 1781

Extract of a Letter from Mr. Morley Anjengo 13th February 1781.

Mr. Petrie who is passenger on board a portuguese Ship bound for Lisbon landing here on the 11th Inst. I had the pleasure to learn from him that Arnal surrendered to General Goddard on the 18th

Fort St George 19th March 1781

18th Ulto and that he/ Genl Goddard/ subsequent to this event was proposing to march towards the Ghauts —

N.B. Mr Morley is apprehensive in regard to the dispatch of the Letters lately forwarded to Bombay, as the Boat-people would only engage to go as far as Cochin, on account of reports of Numbers of Hyder's Armed Boats cruizing between Callicut and Cochin —

To The Honble Charles Smith Esqr
President and Governor & the Select Committee

Honble Sir & Sirs

From Col Nixon Ramnad dated 7th Inst enclosing an account of Horses bought for the Company —

I have received information by message, from Colonel Martin at Ramnad that he is so very closely beset by the Marawar Polligars, and otherwise so ill circumstanced for want of Provisions and Pay for the Troops, that he cannot hold the Place above twenty days longer without assistance, & his effectual relief would require more Troops than this whole Garrison consists of —

Pondicherry had in Obedience to the Nabobs orders promised to send a large Body of Polligars to the relief of the place, but his delays & excuses may be the loss of it — The former Rajahs Son a Lad of about eighteen years of age who has been close prisoner there for ten Years, and must from the condition of his education be extremely ignorant

Fort St George 19th March 1781

ignorant, might in my opinion be made good use of towards abating the Zeal of the Insurgents, to their present leader who is only a Nabalum, the attachment of these people to their Antient and true Chief is excessive, and provided the Nabob would approve of his being enlarged with some appearance of pomp, I think it possible that many people now deeply engaged in the War would recede, and that at any rate the Reduction of the Insurgents to obedience would be rendered less difficult; impressed with this Idea, I had the curiosity to visit the young Rajah in his prison this day, with the Nabobs manager, and notwithstanding his situation his appearance is much in his favour.—]

Your Honors will have heard of the evacuation of Wooriarpollam, when Hyder has sent 200 Horse, and the Polleys of that Country are now approaching the Arialore bounds, a small escort of Grain, is intended to be sent to Arialore, as the Killedar represents his want of Provisions and in very pressing terms requests it soon, from Tiagar I hear 5,000 Bullock load of Rice, and the things for Hyders Bazar, has been collected at Attore, and that they only wait the arrival of an escort from him to convoy it to Camp I have the pleasure to acquaint you that this Country has remained in perfect peace owing to a small Camp which has been formed many Months ago at Cunnapatore and still continues to cover us from the Enemys Incursions from the West, the Enemy have all along had a small

Body

I hear.

Incursions.

Fort St. George 19th March 1781

Body of Horse at Carroor, but they never have ventured to pass our Party—

I inclosed I send you an Account of Horses bought by myself, for the Company's Service I neither have of my own, nor can I raise any more money, which I take the liberty to inform you of, besides this, some have been procured upon receipts, at Six Months credit signed by Mr Falk and myself, of which he keeps a Register—

I have the honor to be most respectfully

Hond Sir & Sirs,

Your most Obed.

Humble Servant

Eccles Nixon,

Pricknopoly

9th March 1781

Mr Francis Lind appointed Commissary General

Agreed that Mr Francis Lind be appointed Commissary General, with an allowance of 20 Shillings pr diem— And that Mr Henry Aylmer be appointed Deputy Commissary with the usual allowance.—

Mr Henry Aylmer appd Dpty Commy Genl

745 Fort St George. March 1781

19 Wrote the following Letters

To Brigadier General Jeames Stuard

To Genl Stuart requesting his opinion on a Diversion in the Side of Arcott.

Sir

Lieut. General Sir Eyre Coote having in his late letter to us, recommended that a Detachment might be formed in Order to create a Diversion on the Side of Arcot, in Case our Intelligence from that Quarter, Should be Such as to warrant a Probability of Succes, We deem it expedient on this occa- occa-sion, to take your Opinion for Our Guidance, And with greater the View of troubling you to give it us with the Great Dis- -patch, We enclose herewith the best Intelligence we have been able to procure of the Strength of the Garrison at Arcot, Also an Account of the Number of our troops at Vellour, and the Stat of the Officers of this Garrison.

We are,
Sir,
your most Obed.t Humble Serv.ts,
Charles Smith
&c. Select Committee

Fort St George,
19th March 1781.

To Capt.n David Thomson,
Commanding the
Earl of Dartmouth

To Captn Thomson & Todd informing them of the Nature of the Service their Ships are to be employed on to the Southward —

Sir,

I am Directed by the Honble the President & Select Committee to Acknowledge the receipt of your Letter of the 18th Inst. & to acquaint you that with respect to the nature of the Service you are to be employed on to the Southward altho' they are not throughly informed there of, They Conceive it to be, for the Protection of the trade from the Moulls of the Enemy & to Cover any Movement the Army may make; that you will remain on this Station until [illegible] insults.

Fort St George, March 1781

19. Edward Hughes's Fleet, which is now soon Expected on the Coast, & that they will write in the most pressing terms to the General to return You to this place, So Soon as you Services can possibly be dispensed with, And They desire further to be informed when your Ship will be ready to Sail.

Fort St George, 19th March, 1781

By Order of the President & Select Committee,

The Same to Capt. Todd of the Rochford

20th Received the following Answers from Captn Thomson & Todd

To the Honble Charles Smith Esqr

President & Select Committe of

Fort St George.

From Captn Thomson in reply, that his Ship incapable of performing the Service request'd & enclosing the Opinion of the Officers.

Honble Sir & Sirs,

In Answer to your Letter of the 19 the time that the Ship E. of Dartmouth will be r Service therein Mentioned, I have Consu had the Opinion of my Officers, which agr in regard to the State She is in to go upon Such an American expedition, which Opinion I here enclose for your perusal, and beg leave to Observe, that if You an determined to Order the Ship upon the Duty mentioned in Your Said Letter, I will use every expedition in my power for the good of the Service. But in Justice to my Owners, as well as myself and Officers, I must be Under the Necessity of Protesting against You Orders for all and every Damage that may Accrue to the Ship and Cargo and all Concerned therein, also for the Amount of the Homeward Freight, the whole Amounting to upward of one hundred and twenty thousand pound Sterling. This duly Considered and the

ineffectual

147. Fort St George, March 1781

20, ineffectual Service that can be rendered down the Coast at this Critical Season by a Ship duply laden that Cannot Anchor near the Shore an Account of the Uncertainty of the weather, to destroy Such Boats as I understand are Complained of. I entirely leave to your determination to Judge whether the proposed Service is equal to the Risque, I am with the Greatest respect.

Ship Ld Dartmouth
20th March 1781.

Hon.ble Sir & Sir,

Your most obed. Servt.
David Thomson,

David Thomson Esq.

Sir

In Answer to your of this morning inclosing a Letter from the President & Select Committie We give it as our unanimous Opinion that your Ships, in their present Condition is totally unfit to proceid on any Uncertain Service without riffitting the Rigging which will require at least twenty days. We must also inform you the Ship is much in want of Ground Tackle, and that it will be Absolutely Necessary to have two more Cables of Nineteen Inches, — before we can proceid on Such Service with any degree of Safety. We are

Sir

Your Humble Servants
Jnº Geed.
Willm Maitland.
Willm Smith.
Sherlock Greave.

Ship Ld Dartmouth,
Madras Roads, —
20th March 1781.

To

740 Fort St George . March

To the Honble Charles Smith Esq.r - President Governor &c -
and Select Committee -

Honble Sir & Sirs -

Having maturely Consudered the Import of Your Orders delivered to Captain Tod on the 17.th Instant, his Ons thereto desiring an explanation of the Nature of the Service and of the length of time that he might prepare his Ships accordingly, with your reply of the 19.th Inst.t We beg leave to give you our Joint opinion upon what will be Absolutely necessary to be done on Board the Ships Rochford before She can proceed upon that Service -

We are of opinion that at this Season of the Year it would by no means be Consistent with the Safety of the Ship or the Honble Company's Cargo to Cruise on the Coast or Lie off any Port as a Cruising Ship, when the Monsoon is so near Setting in, and when blowing weather may be expected - Notwithstanding which Should the orders be executed, we think it absolutely necessary that the Ships Rigging, Masts, Yards &c.a Should be thoroughly overhauled and put in the Same State as if She were intended for a Europe passage -

We beg leave likewise to observe that it is our firm Opinion that Ships drawing Nineteen feet water and deeply loaded with a Valuable Cargo belonging to the Honble Company can by no means make So free with the Southern part of the Coast of Coromandel as to either Co-operate or Cover any move=ment made by the Army - more especially at this Season when they will be under the Necessity of keeping a good offing from the Shore and Riding in Seven, Eight or Nine fathom Water at least -

We likewise beg leave to Observe that the Ship

749 Fort St George, March 1781

20, being upon her last Voyage & having Complained Almost the whole passage from Europe more particularely in the last blowing weather in these Roads when She Strained very Hard-

We are very much afraid that the weather we have reason to expect may in some measure render her unfit to receive the Honble Companys Cargo for Europe when it Shall be thought proper to dispatch her home, And although we are Sensible that She is in a Condition to receive any Cargo on Board at present, Yet we can by no means Answer for the Consequences either to the present Cargo on Board or what She may after-wards be loaded to Europe with.

As there is no limitted time for this Service limited We think it will be necessary to have at least Two months provision of Rice, Paddy &c One Anchor from 34 to 36 Cwt, and Some other Cordage which the Boatswain must Indent for.

We are like wise of opinion that from Fourteen to Twenty days will be requisite to get every thing done Necessary before the Ship can proceed upon that Service.

We are with the Greatest Respect

Ship Rochford Madras Road
20th March 1781

Honble Sir & Sirs
Your Most Obedient and Very humble Servants
James Todd
Peter Marshall & Hatz
John Borradaile 2d &c

To the Honble Chas Smith Esqr President & Select Committee of Fort St George

From Capt. Todd &c
&c &c &c

Honble Sir & Sirs

I am favoured with yours of the 19th Inst in Answer to mine of the 18th in consequence of which I have been on Board and laid the Matter before my officers, whose opinion with

150 Fort St George March 1781

20th. with Mine & you have here enclosed, It appears to me in every respect So incompitent with our present Situation to be sent down as Cruising Ships upon this Coast, Just upon the Shift of the Monsoon, that I must beg your Serious Re, consideration, a Ship Deeply laden as the Rochford is, drawing between 19 & 20 feet Water, would at all times be very Cautious of working too near the Coast to the Southward, but much more so at this present Season, when the Consequence of Bad weather has been more than once fatal to Ships, much better found than Our Ships in general are, If notwithstanding the inclosed Opinion and what I have here Saw it Should be your determination that we proceed to the Southward on this Service, I hope I Shall Stand excused for taking every Necessary Step to Secure my Owners, Insurers, Insured, Self, & Officers from every bad Consequence that may follow; Barring Accidents of wind and weather the Rochford will be ready by the time mentioned in the inclosed Opinion. I dare Say upon reflection it will not appear Strange that my Ship Should need Such a through repair, after a Passage of Eight months and laying Ten weeks in these Roads. its true I had your Orders to keep the Ship in readyness for Sea, and so She has Constantly been ever Since we Arrived here, & in a Sufficient State to Undertake the Service at that time proposed, But now that, that Service is So materially Changed, the proposed repair of the Ship is become indis-pensably Necessary.— As to Co-operating with the Army or covering any movement they may make it appears to me impossible for us to render them any Essential Service as the Uncertainty of the weather will Oblige us to Keep So far from the Shore, as must prevent us giving

that

Fort St George, March 1781.

20. That Assistance which Seems to be wished for —

I am respectfully,
Hon.ble Sir & Sirs,
Your most Obd.t Servt.
James Tod.

Ships Rochford Madras road
20th March 1781 — —

Recived the following letter from General Stuart, in reply to one Addressed Yesterday to him —

To the Honble Chas. Smith Esq.r Governor Select Committie Fort St Geo.

From Genl. Stuart with a State of the Garison unable to furnish Troops for a Detachment towards Arcot

Gentlemen,

Yesterday I had the honour of receiving your Letter of the 19th Inst. Acquainting me — That Lt Genl. Sir Eyr. Coote, had in his Last to you recommended, That a Detachment might be formed, in order to create a Diversion, on the Side of Arcot, In Case Your Intelligence from that quarter be Such as to warrant a probability of Success — you are pleased to add — "That you Deem it expedient, on this Occasion, to take my opinion for Your Guidance — and for that purpose You Send enclosed, the best Intelligence, you have been able to procure of the Strength of the Garrison of Arcot, also an Account of the Troops at Vellore, and the State of the Officers of this Garrison —

These papers of Information (1.2.3.)

I now return, and beg Leave to add (&c &c) the Last General return of this Garrison, in order that the Hon.ble Committie may have the whole before them —

I am, in the first place Gentlemen, to acknowledge, The Honor conferred upon me, by this reference —

Communication

752. Fort St George, March 1781

20 Communication

Coming as it does in this official Mode, I think myself called upon in forming any Opinion to Consider not only the Numbers; but also, the Condition of the Troops here.

In this view towards forming a proper Judgement, I have made the following Abstract of the whole real Efficient military Force in this Garrison, and Dependences of Black Town Lines &c; from whence in my humble Opinion, Any Detachment, can be made, to be Considered in fit for Action, if to be marched at any Distance from hence.

And Firstly, From the Abstract of Return N.31 It will appear.

That the total of Officers in the fort & Lines, under the preceding Discription is as follows A Brigad. Genl. Commanding with five Officers in his Staff.

One Major.

One Capt. of Artillery, Commandt in the Lines, one Capt. Commandt. the Irregular Horse & One Capt. Regulating the Fort Militia, Two (more) Capts. of Infantry — One Town Major and a Fort adjutant, One Lieutenant Commanding the 1st Battalion Black Town Sepoys, One Lieut. acting Adjt. to the regular Sepoys, Two (more) Lieutenants.

One Ensign Commt. the 2 Batt. Blacktown Sepoys

One Ensign Aid-de-Camp to the Governer —

One Ensign acting Adt. to the Europeans. eight (more) Ensign

Note Sums of there Ensigns have not had Commissions 6 months.

20 Secondly — From the Return (N° 6) it appears — That the Effective (Europe:) Artillery Men, fit for Service, non-Commissioned Officers included — Dont exceed — 33 — and what remain to make up, 162, the Compliment of the Return (N° 6) whither belonging to this Establishment or to Bengal, Amounts to 109 — where of 28 are Sick —

That the Effective Europe Infantry, non Commissioned officers — included, do not exceed — 156.

Note, These are in General the Recruits of Last July, and there are not more than 60 Seasoned men among them — and what remain to make up the Number 520, whither belonging to this Establishment or to Bengal, is Accounted for — by 118 actually with the Army: 105 Sick and 141 at Bril —

Note. these 161. are the recruits who have not had Arms in their hands two Months —

Sepoys

By the Same Return (N° 4) it appears — that the Effective Sepoys in this Garrison fit to take the field belonging to the 1.st 7.th 11.th Battalln together, Officers of all Sorts, included, dont exceed — 720 —

That the full Complement of both the Sepoy militia Battalions (begun to be raised in August or September last, For the Defence and Duty of the Black-Town Lines, including the Country-Gunners and Officers of all Sorts — do not Exceed — 1,300, of which Number, in my opinion, the Men fit for Service in the field dont exceed — 600 —

There is also under Capt. Scott the Troopers of the Governor's Guard — 20, Irregular Horse — 60 — Poligars at the Great

&

Fort St George, March 1781

20 & Little mounts, and in the Environs of the Garrison 300 —

The whole Force therefore of / Europeans / Artel=
=lery & Infantry, including the Bengal recruits may be this
State —

Artillery / Men Fit for Service 33.
{ at Drill at practice
{ of 2 Months — 81.

Infantry / Whereof 2/3 of 16 / months training 156.
at Drill of 2 Months Standing — 161
Sepoys /

The Effective Strength / remains / of the regular Battalions
fit for Service — 720 —

The Black Town Sepoys D° 500 —

In thus Stating the Efficient force of this Garrison, I beg Leave to Guard the Honble Committee, against the Supposition as if I put that Value upon the present =
= Enemy, as to make it necessary for either Our Europeans & Sepoys, to be highly trained, before they are fit for Service, against even the most Considerable Country power. I am quite of a Contrary Opinion, so much so, that I would venture my own Credit in the Defence of this place and of the Lines with Only the present Garrison, Against the United force & power of Hyder-ally Cawn and his French Men where they to be Collected from all quarters for the purpose, even tho' there were no Army in the field to oppose their progress.

But when Europeans in this Climate, tho' only under the weight of their Arms, Accoutrements and am=
=munition, are to make forced or even Continued Ordinary Marches, before they Can Effect any intended Junction, or arrive at a place of rest & Security, & before they can Carry any

proposed

20. proposed Coup-de Main or Enterprise, and when This March is to be made thro' the Country of Doubtful friends or declared enemies, who by their rabble of Horse may have eyes there in every Stage of it, In this Case, I say, their Succefs may be Liable to very great hagard, were the Detachment Composed even of Old tryed men Seasoned to the Climate, but in all probability it would be fatal, if attempted by a party of 150 or 200 Men, Such as this Garrison is at present Composed of, -

Because I really do not think, there are now 50 Europe, Soldiers here, able to march with their arms & ammunition Ten miles each Day, for to-Succeeding Days -

As to the Sepoys, I Suppose a Detach-=ment of 500, might be formed fit to March, as good as any in the Service, but if they are to be officered by Europeans in the Usual proportion, It would take nearly half the officers in this Garrison, where there is at present, for the common Duty, little more than One Day's relief - and in this Case - the Fort-Duty, must be done almost entirely by the black Town Sepoys -

In the present Situation of this Country & of the Enemy's parties of Horse, I should not however think it Safe or prudent, to Send Field Artillery with Such a Detachment, if to go at any Distance, from this Garrison, even tho' it were to be joined by 100 Sepoys from Chinglepuff, and by the Sepoys in the Nabob's pay now near his person in the Black Town.

Upon the whole, Gentlemen, and after an Attentive perusal & Comparison of the papers sent for my information I am humbly of Opinion that Any Detachment to be Spared from this Garrison, were it even possible to

Co-operate

20 Cooperate with that of Vellour / as Stated / N.° 2 / could not, without the Greatest probability of Failing in the Attempt, Force the Lines of Arcot, or gain any permanent advantage in that Quarter, without Sufficient Escort of Horse, Men, Artillery Stores & provesions impossible at present to be Carryed with them from hence, Especially as there are no Accounts so far as I know of any friendly Efforts on the part of the Nabobs Old Subjects in these parts—

My Opinion moreover, from what I know of the extreme youth and Low Size of the Infantry recruits of this year, and from the Information now before me, is —That if such Detachment were to the Composed of the just proportion of Europeans, it would require full Eight days march, without a halt, to come near to Arcot, and that the Chance of the Europeans dropping, merely thro' Fatigue, before they had got halfway, is so great, as most probably would defeat the purpose of any Diversion; because, this and every other un to ward Circumstance would be soon known to the enemy —

But if the Hon.ble Committee or the Commander in Chief, be of Opinion that a Real Diversion of the Enemy's force from their present position, can be brought about, either by Feints in marching, or by any Active Military Operation from this Garrison, which may be Effected quickly, and at no great Distance from hence, as for example against Tripasore, by watching an Opportunity when the Enemy are less on their guard, than at present— I think it may be attempted but it will be worth Seriaces Consideration whether, in the first Case, There will not be Some Disgrace in the appearance of retiring, without Striking a blow, and in the

Fort St George, March 1781

whether after carrying Trippasore it
20. the Second Lose, would be proper or prudent to maintain & Support any part of this Garrison in that place Sufficient to take it, against any any force The Enemy might immediately Assemble from Conjevaram and Arcotte, as also how we Could Carry off the Grain, which is the only Money expected to be found there

all which is most respectfully Submitted

Jam.s Stuart.

Fort
20.th March 1781.

I have written the above, for evident reasons of Secrecy with my own hand, which is not very good, - but this is the Apology I beg leave to make. J. S

Wrote the following Letters

To M.r James Hodges
Provisional Chief &.c Council
at
Masulipatam.

Gentlemen

To Masulipatam - The Zemindars to disband the irregular Sepoys ———

Our President having laid before us Letters he has received from Trippitty Nauze, Juggapatty Raaze, Mahipat Naw and Oppana Now - in Answer to the Directions Sent them to raise Pikemen for the Service, in which they Shew no inclination to pay these men, & the present low State of Our Treasury rendering it necessary, We Should be extremely Cautious in encreasing our Expences, together with the Services to be expect=ed from these undisciplined Troops, being very inadequate to the heavy Charges We Shall be at on their Account, We Desire you will immediately write to the above Zemindars, Directing them to Disband Such men as they may have raised for the Public Service.

We are
Gentlemen
Your most Obed.t Serv.ts
Charles Smith

Fort St George
20.th March 1781

Fort St George. March 1781

To Mr. James Henery Casamajor
Chief &c Council of
Vizagapatam

Gentlemen

To Vizagapatam
Sittaram Rauze
to disband his irre-
gular Sepoys & to
raise a Body of Horse.

Our President has received a Letter from Sittaram raze wherein he mentions his having raised 4,000 Pikemen & 1,500 Sepoys, for the Public Service, agreeably to Letters written to him for that purpose — but as he does not Shew any Inclination towards the Payment of these Troops, and the Low State of Our Treasury rendering it necessary We Should be extremly cautious in encreasing Our Expences to gether with the Services to be expected from these undisciplined Pikemen & Sepoys being very inadequate to the heavy Charges We Shall be at on their Account; We therefore desire You do immediately write to Sittaramraze to disband them; at the Same time representing to him that he will render a very essential Service, by raising a Body of Horse to join Col: Pearse's Detachment, on its arrival at Vizagapatam. — Weare,

Fort St George
20th March 1781

Gentlemen
Your most obedient Servts
Charles Smith
P. Whitehill

21st Dispatched the following Letters

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

To Sir Eyre Coote Diver-
sion towards Arcot
not practicable. His
request concerning
Lieut. Bishop Flint
and Craigie Moore
complied with. Mr Js.
Tanner appointed Asst
Fire Worker Lament this
Want of Bullocks &
Bishop for Money —

Sir

We have had the Honor to receive your Letters of the 7th 12th 14th and 16th Instant which we Shall now reply to, in the Order of their dates.

We entirely approve of the Sentiments expressed in

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The Captns of the Rochford & Dartmouth object to proceeding to the Southward.

in your Letters to the Select Committee at Bombay & to Genl Goddard, and sincerely hope that the earnest manner in which you have prefsed them to a Speedy Accommodation with the Marattas will have the desired Effect. Should it not however you will at least feel the Satisfaction which must arise from the Consciousness of having done your Utmost to avert the probable Consequences of that tedious & distructive War.

It Gives us pleasure to find that you Coincide in Opinion with us respecting the Proposal from the Government of Bengal for Concluding a Treaty with the Dutch on the terms mentioned in their Letters to us on this Subject.

We have no Reason to think that Col Pearse's Detachment will meet with any Obstruction in the Cuttack Country On the Contrary by our last Letters from the Northward we are informed that it would probably reach Ganjam on the 15th Instant. we Shall write to the Gentlemen at Vizagapatam relative to Sittaramrauze's Supplying a small body of Horse to Accompany the Detachment, but the Doubtful Conduct the Zemeindars, have lately observed added to the heavy expences the Company must be put to for the Payment of such Troops as they Can furnish to join the Detachment from Bengal have induced us to Order those which have been received for that purpose to be Disbanded.

supplying

raised

The Gentlemen at all the Subordinacies have been already Ordered to Send as many Draught & Carriage Bullocks, Sheep &c as they Can possibly Collect with the Detachment, and the Nabob has been requested by the President in the Strongest terms to Send Similar Orders to his People at Nellour.

The Reasons you have given for Detaining the

amazon

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21 Amazon are very Satisfactory, and we desire you will Still continue to employ her as long as you Shall find it necessary, Could we have Conceived after the receit of your Letter to the President of the 15th ult: that you wished to have the Rochford & Dartmouth we Should have Sent them Sooner to you, as it is Our earnest Desire to afford you every possible assistance, knowing the Difficulties you have to encounter. we have now ordered those Ships to proceed to you to gather with the Grosvenor, by which we have Sent Sundry Articles of Provision & Stores, as you will observe from the respective accounts which accompany them.

We Shall embrace the first favorable Opportunity of Sending the Arcott Europeans to Masulipatam, and give Directions that Upon their Arrival there the Invalids may be returned to their Station at Vizagapatam, this however from Cannot be effected untill the two Indiamen proceed to Bengal. we Shall also give the Necessary Orders Concerning the Stores to be Sent from Vizagapatam to Ganjam.

In Consequence of what you have mentioned in your Several Letters relative to a Diversion in the Side of Arcot we thought it expedient to take the Opinion of Genl Stuart on the Practicability of Such a Scheme, furnishing him with the best Information we Could procure, relative to the Strength of the Garrison at Arcott &c. Genl Stuarts Opinion is herewith enclosed for your Perusal, and we flatter Ourselves you will agree with him & us, in thinking that Under the Circumstances upon which that Opinion is formed and which as far as we can ascertain are just it would not be eligible at present to hazard an Attempt. These being an Sentiments we have in Consequence of the desire you eventually expressed, Sent you by the Indiamen, 40 Artillery Men, with the rem'd Europeans

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21 Europeans belonging to the Other Corps of the Army. to together with 24 Cadets and Volenteers in this Establishment — Therefore Bengal Shall proceed thither by the first proper Conveyance with the Invalids —

we Shall write to the Nabob on the Several Subjects in your late letters which respect him, and press him Strongly to Send the necessary Orders to his Garrisons for Storing all all the Grain which can possibly be Collected. Mean while We are taking measures Ourselves for getting a proper Supply of this Article vizt Chingleputt —

The Haste we were necessarily Obliged to Use in dispatching the Rice which went by the Vessels by the Sadras the Success Gally. Amazon & Hydra prevented our Sending exact Accounts of the Quantity that was shipped on each Vessel. but our Garrison Storekeeper will by this Convey-ance furnish Mr. Maunsell with the proper Invoices.

We are extremly concerned that you Should have So much Cause to Complain of the Insufficiency of the Bullocks with the Army, either for Draught a Carriage, and most Seriously wish it was in Our Power, remedy it. This however appears is a misfortune which has arisen chiefly from the want of proper exertions, previous to your arrival from Bengal, the present distressed State of the Country & the Position of the Enemy which Shuts up your Communica-tion with the Tanjore Country, and not from Inattention or Mismanagement on the part of those who either fit or Superintend the Dispatchments, from whence your Obstacles arise If this latter were the Case, we Should take blame to ourselves, were we to Suffer the Evil to exist for a moment.

But

Fort St George March 1781

21. but we hope You will do us the Justice to believe that nothing within the Compass of Our power has been wanting for the Equipment of the Army in this Article. we are not ourselves conscious of any Blame, nor Can we impute Blame to Any person in a Matter which as far as we Can judge proceeds wholly from invitable Causes. We are very Sensible of the Difficulties you have had to encounter in this War from the misfortune that arose before You took the Management of it. You have Struggled with and overcome many already by your Zeal, Ability and Prudence, and the Great Honor which You have So justly acquired from your Success, will We are Confident induce you to persevere until the Tranquility of the Country is restored.

With respect to the Condition of the Cavalry for want of Gram, whatever Fault is imputable on this Head must fall upon those who have the Contract for feeding them, and whose Duty it is if Gram be procurable at any price, to Obtain it, For our part We have even done more in this Business than Could have been expected from us. We Ordered the Garrison Storekeeper to purchase on Account of the Company a Quantity of Gram that Came here, expecting the Gentlemen who hold the Contracts for feeding the Horses would be Glad to take it at the price which the Company paid for it, but as yet a part only has been disposed of in this way. we Shall do all we can to encourage the exportation of Gram for the Use of the Cavalry.

We much Approve of what You did in Consequence of Mr Van Vlissingen's Application for leave to Send a Deputation to Hyder. The Conduct of the Dutch during

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war has been as
21. during the whole of this very suspicious and bordering on
Hostilities war has been So that we agree with you in
thinking their Motions Cannot be too narrowly watched.

. . . . . .

. . . . . We

believe the Governor General and Council of Bengal have
placed great dependance on the balance of Cash at our
northern Settlements for the Pay of Colonel Pearses Detach-
ment — but we are clearly of Opinion that whatever
may be their Distress, it is impossible to exceed what we
experience for the disbursments of the Military belonging
to Our own establishment — we are therefore not a
little Surprised that the Gentlemen at Calcutta, instead
of Assisting us with Considerable Supplies of Cash, as
we have Long Since in the most earnest manner requested,
have on the Contrary attempted to deprive us of the only
certain, though inadequate means, left us of providing
for our own immediate and indispensably Occasions — Under
these Circumstances, we Conceive in Opinion with you in
thinking we Should be fully justified, were we to order all
the Money that may be at the northern Settlements, to be
Sent hither by the first good Conveyance, the necessity of which
we are the more convinced of from the very pointed expres-
sions in your Letter of the 16th Instant on this Subject and
Should any Serious consequences arise to the Bengal Detachment
from Such a resolution, we Conceive no Censure Could justly
fall upon us, but that it would would be imputed to those
who have placed us in So Disagreeable a Predicament —

Never

21. Nevertheless, to evince our zeal for the Good of the public Service, and to prevent any evil consequences that might ensue from Our Drawing away all the Money now at the Northern Settlements, we have Come to the resolution of leaving part for the use of Coll. Pearse's Detachment, and of ordering the rest to be sent up to the Presidency, but as we have no proper Vessel now here to Send for it, we hope it will be Convenient to you, on the Arrival of the Indiamen to Dispatch the Success Galley to us, that we may Send her to Masulipatam, to fetch up what ever Cash can be Spared, after allowing Such a Sum as may be judged obsolutely necessary for Coll. Pearse's Detachment — as that Detachment must be now advanced into the Circars, we Shall be glad to receive your opinion as soon as may be Convenient, with respect to the manner in which it may be most usefully employed in Distressing the Enemy.

In Consequence of your Representation Concerning Lieut.ts Bishop & Flint, and Ensign Moore, we most Chearfully acquiesce in what you have been pleased to recommend - And we now Enclose you a Copy of the Gen.l Order which has passed on the Occasion, which we trust will prove Satisfactory to you —

We have also upon your Recommendation agreed to appoint Mr. James Taner, Son of Capt.n Edw.d Taner, to be a Lieut.t Fireworker of Artillery —

The Money, you brought with you from Bengal we ever Considered as appropriated for Military Disbursments, and we have been Scrupulously exact in not encroaching on it, altho' the distresses of the Civil Servants have been very great, and are still encreasing, but we Conceive and always understood, that this Money was to be issued for the

21. the payment of the Troops, on this Establishment, equally with those from Bengall — they are both employed on the public Service, and must be all paid according to their different Establishments, therefore we thought it unnecessary to make any Distinction in the Remittance made to you by the Success Galley — we were then totally unable to make an advance, and, even now, the Twenty five Thousand Pagodas, we send our Pay Master, reduces our Balance of Cash under ten thousand Pagodas — we feel, as we ought, your Situation, but you must be sensible that we are equally distressed for want of Money — the Civil Servants, without exception, are Seven Months in Arrears, there are Bills, under acceptance, for above 50,000 Pagodas, undischarged, the Military Store-keeper, Garrison Store-keeper, Contractor for the works, Contractor for Repairs &c all largely in advance, and even this Garrison not paid for last Month — our resources are very limitted — his highness, the Nabob has made no advances since the Commencement of the war, or even paid any part of the assigned Revenues of the Trichinopoly and Tinnivelly Districts, altho' the Company have discharged the arrears of his Cavalry, on the solemn assurances he gave, of his inability to Satisfy these Troops, then going on Service, and upon the faith of his Engagements of reimbursement in February last, and the Subsequent Months, and pleads utter incapacity of any future payments untill the present Troubles are over — all our representations to him have only produced the assignments of the Trichinopolly and Tinnivelly Districts — the former, even by his own Account, will not produce Sufficient to pay the Military Charges and the Servants usually employed in the Collection, and the latter not above two lacks of Pagodas: the greatest part of which must be received in Grain — we cannot pretend to say what the Deputation we have sent to Tanjore, may produce, but, in any event, it must be Considered as precarious — the utmost we have reason to expect from the Northern

limited

Circars

21. Circars, within these 2 Months, will not exceed one Lack of Pagodas, and we have very little hopes of a further Supply from Bengal, notwithstanding our earnest Representation of our Distresses. We believe that you are already tollerably well acquainted with our Situation: but we deem it incumbent on us now to mention particulars, as you have acquainted us, You have no more Money to advance, and that, if a Supply be not speedily Sent by us, the Consequence may be ruinous — we are truely Sensible how inadequate the Sum now remitted, is to the necessary Military Disbursments, but our Situation is Such that, at present, we cannot make it larger — if we could devise any means, for raising a further Supply, we Should esteem it our duty to put them in immediate execution, however disadvantageous the mode might be, as we consider the regular Payment of the Army Our primary Object-but, as we are Conscious of having waved our own just rights, and all Claims of a Similar nature, in favor of the Military Establishment, we Shall abide by the event, whatever it may be, in perfect confidence of having done every thing in our power, for the publick Service.

Enclosed We have the honor to transmit you Invoice & Bill of Lading of Military Stores Sent on board of the Grosvenor — As likewise a Return of the Officers & men embarked to join the Army.

Fort St George
2d. March 1781

We are,
Sir,
Your most Obed.t humb.e Serv.ts

P.S.

Since writing the foregoing of the Captains of the Dartmouth & Rochford have raised Strong Objections against proceeding to the Southward, agreeably to Our Orders We have therefore only thrice to enclose You Copies of the Correspondence that has passed between us on that occasion —

Fort St George, March 1781.

To Capt. Coxon to proceed to Cuddalore

21 To Capt. Coxon.

Commanding the Ship
Grosvenor.

Sir,

You are hereby directed to repair on board your Ship & make the best of your way to Cuddalore, where you will follow such Orders & Instructions, as you may receive from Lt. Gen. Sir Eyre Coote for the delivery of the Treasure & other Articles laden on board your Ship, & for your future destination.

Fort St George 21st March 1781.
By Order of the President & Select Committee
H A Grace
Asst. Secry.

At a Select Committee Present.

The Honorable Chas. Smith Esqr President Gov.

Monday the 26th } ——— Samuel Johnson

——— " ———

Lieut. General Sir Eyre Coote &
Major General Sir Hector Munro Absent on Service.
Mr Davidson on a Deputation to Tanjore.

Minutes of last Committee read and approved.

The President delivers in the following Minute

Minute of the President, recommending the Purchase of the Sloop Escape

The public Service having been frequently impeded for want of Small Vessels to Carry Dispatches, Civil & Military Servants, and Small Stores to the different Subordinacies the President proposes that a Sloop called the Escape, now in this Road be purchased on the Company's account

Fort St George 26th March 1781

account, as She is to be Sold for the low price of Six hundred Pagodas — he has had her Survey'd; is informed She is remarkably cheap, wants but few Stores & Sails at a very Small expence —

26th. March 1781.

agreed to

Mr. Johnson approving the foregoing, Agreed that the Sloop Escape be purchased for Pags. 600 — " — on account of the Company.

The President delivers in likewise the following minute.

Minute of the President relative to freighting the Alfred to Cuddalore.

The President lays before the Committee Copy of a Letter written by him to Messrs. Pelling & Desfries & the Owners, relative to freighting the Ship Alfred from hence to Cuddalore, with their Answer, and is of Opinion that their Proposal should be accepted, as the Rice & other Provisions will be of the utmost Service at that Settlement, where there is the utmost distress for every necessary of Life, and he hopes one hundred Bullocks may also be sent on her for the use of the Army.

26th March 1781

Fort St George 26th. March 1781

Messrs. Pelling & DeFries

Gentlemen,

As you inform me you Cannot let the Mohamed proceed to Cuddalore, I agree, on behalf of the Honble Comp.y, to freight from you the Ship Alfred from hence to Cuddalore and back at C.Rs. 1600 for the trip — also to allow you C.Rs. 400. to pay the Insurance of this Ship — whatever quantity of Rice, may now be on board this Ship, Shall be taken at Market price there, or Should this be not agreable, I will engage to deliver an equal quantity of

Similar

Fort St George 26th March 1781

Similar quality to your Order out of the Company's Store.—
Should you agree to my propositions for Freight, Insurance
and such part of the Cargoe as is now on Board, I expect
you will accept of Bills on Calcutta, at the Current
Exchange, for the amount.

I hope for your Speedy Answer to this, & am
Gentlemen
Your Most obedient Hble Servt

P.S. As the transporting Bullocks to Cuddalore is at present a
primary object in the above proposal, I request you will
order the Captain of the Alfred to make a calculation of
the number he can take and direct him to wait on me.—

To the Honble Charles Smith Esqr

Sir

We have received the Honor of your Letter Containing
your Proposals for Freighting the Ship Alfred from this
to Cuddalore and back, We agree to let her to Freight on the
following Conditions—

That She should not be detained in Cudda-
-lore Road longer than a Fortnight and in Case of a greater
delay, a demurrage to be allowed at the Rate of Twenty
pagodas pr day for such extraordinary time.

We agree to the Freight you offer of
Two Thousand pagodas, to take in Bills on the Government
of Bengal at the Exchange of 375 Arcot rupees pr 100 pagd

The Rice and Patna Peas She has Still on board
are Sold to the Buzar Merchants, You must therefore
Settle it with them, We cannot Suffer that any of these
Articles Should go in the Ship at the Owners Risk, the
delivery must be ascertaind at once here before the Ships
Departure—

We have Some Wheat on board, which You may have
if you think proper, at One Hundred & Ten pagodas pr

Garce

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Genl. Captain Primrose will wait on you in the afternoon —

We enquired of the Captain of the Success who says the Ship is in a fit Condition to make a Trip to Cuddalore She has brought from Bengal Four Thousand Bags Cargo and is nearly unloaded — We make you a tender of her also at the Rate of Thirteen Hundered Pagodas for the Trip to Cuddalore & back with the Demurrage in Case She is detained longer than Fifteen Days at Cuddalore of Fifteen pagodas pr. Day.

We are with Respect
Sir
Your most Obedient &
most humble Servts
Pelling & de Fries

Madras
26th. March 1781

Read the following Letters from the Commander in Chief —

From Genl. Coote, — Success Galley arrives with Troops from Nagore, his great want of money & Bullocks —

To the Honble Charles Smith Esqr.
Presidt & Govr &c Select Committee
Fort St George.

Gentlemen,

I have the pleasure to acquaint you that the Success Galley with other Vessels with a reinforcement of about 650 Men, including all Ranks & Denominations arrived last night & this Morning from Nagore, Numbers of those Seapoys who Deserted on the Embarkation have gone to Tanjore and upon a promise of Pardon have Come in to Colonel Brathwaite.

The Enemy by my intelligence of this Morning Crossed the Colleroon in Force. Mr. Hudleston has been long apprehensive of an Attack upon his Redoubt, and I fear it will prove that he has not been so

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So without good reason — The want of the Indiamen is most Severely felt, and I cannot help expressing myself much Disappointed at their not Coming - It may be the Cause of the Total Loss of the Gentlemen & Troops at Nagore It doubtless has not escaped Your Memory that to provide for the Security of this Factory as well as that of Nagore were two principal Motives urged when it was first resolved that the Indiamen Should be employed along the Coast for the Services of the Army; It will give me as I doubt not it will also yourselves, much Concern Should the Factory of Nagore from not following this Original part of the Plan in as far as might be in your Power fall in to the Hands of the Enemy -

I am now most Cruelly Situated, the Enemy Marching before me, & for want of Carriage for Provisions unable to follow them - I Stated this to You fully in my Letter of the 18th. by which You will Learn that I Can hardly Carry One days Provisions for the Army. The Uninformed World will be apt to Condemn the Tar=dines of my motions, and which I am Sorry to observe, knowing what I could do were I provided as I ought to have been, I feel as a Severe Blow to my Honour and Military Character - However I Comfort my self in the reflection that when the real State of things Comes to be more generally Known, I Shall no longer be exposed to the Unmerited blame either from the Public or from Indivi=duals —

My regard for the Honor, Intrest, and Welfare of the Nation is Such that I Should endeavor all in my Power to Support our Affairs - But without Money and without the means of Carrying Provisions, I See not I can Do to that End I had written thus far when Your Letter of the 5th. Inst. arrived — Wherein you are pleased in the mention You make

what

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make of the Supplies Sent me by the Success Galley &c.
Vessels — The Sum then Sent me you know Gentlemen
was only the balance of the Money I brought with me
from Bengal & no part of it from your Resources,
which I was hopefull would long ere now have Afforded
Some Supply for yr. own Paymaster. Finding the People
rather clamorous, I contrived out of that money to advance
them enough to pay them up to the 15th. of Feby. So that to
the present time the Army is a Month in Arrears — I shall
Only add that I have no more Money to give them, and that
if Some is not Speedily Sent the Consequences may be ruinous
as to Money from the Southward I see not the most Distant
prospect of any Coming from thence, but of this you
must be the best Judges, as you know how far the
grounds upon which you have formed your Expectations
are to be relied upon —

I am Sensible you must experience Difficul
=ties in getting Money, and I am led from what you your
Selves Say on that Head, to believe that the Nabob has
paid no part of the Lack of Pags. which I understood
before I left the Mount he was to have Supplied the
beginning of last Month —

By Intelligence I learn that the Forts
of Palamcottah & Verdachelum like all the rest of the
Nabobs' Forts were given upon the 10th. Inst. without being
hard presed — Before a Shot had been fired at either
I rec.d Letters from both the Killadars, which plainly
indicated that they had no desire of maintaining the
garisons, for they therein Say "Should the Enemy Come in
"force against them they would be obliged to give them
"up" — I wrote answers to them both, urging them Strongly

to

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to defend them, and to Send me Constant information of their Situation, & that when necessary I would relieve them.—

Inclose you a Letter from Col: Nixon which I have opened and perused, & which exibits a further picture of our distresses, arising from the infamous management of the Nabobs Government—

I have the honor to be,

Gentlemen,

Your Most Obedt.

Humble Servt.

Camp Newtown,
16th. March 1781.

Eyre Coote—

/Signed
a true copy/
George Tyder

The Committee are much concern'd at the Generals Distress for want of Money & Bullocks, every Exertion on their part has, & shall Still be made use of to Supply these necessary Articles, but the Difficulties they meet in procuring either have been So Strongly pointed out on their Records, that itis unnecessary to enter here into a Recapitulation of them.

Minute thereon.

To the Honorable Charles Smith Esqr.
President & Governor &c Select Committee

From Do. with Indent for Stores with letter from Mr. Macintosh—the Garrison from Nagore arrive—

Fort St George

Gentlemen

I have written to you fully under date the 7th. 12th. 14th. & 16th. Instant by Sea, and to which Letters I refer. I inclose for your information Copy of a Letter from Mr. M.Intoth the Resident at Trenquebar. What has been the Result of the Conference between the Governor & Mr. Lally I have not yet heard, but believe I may with Safety Conclude that the Issue can be productive of no Good to our Affairs. I imagine that Hyder will at least exact from them Some Military Stores - I have the

pleasure

Fort St George 26th March 1781

pleasure to acquaint you that the Success Gally, as soon as the Troops from Nagore had been Landed from her, — proceeded by my orders to Porto Novo, and retook & brought it in to the Roads here the Vessel with the Elephants on Board, which I informed you in my letter of the 14th. had been Seized by Hyder's Armed Boats. She has on board 15 Elephants of different Sizes, what the rest of her Cargo Consists of I have not yet been able to learn.

I inclose you Copies of Reports made to me by the Quarter Master General of Articles wanting for the use of the Army, which I request may be Complied with.

I have the Honor to be Gentlemen,

Your Most Obedient & Humble Servant.

Signed/ Eyre Coote.

Camp Newtown, 18th March, 1781.

P.S. Mr. Huddleston with the Garrison from Nagore is just arrived on the Amazon, when I see him I shall let you know particulars.—

To His Excellency Lt. Genl. Sir Eyre Coote K.B. Commander in Chief of the British Forces in India.

Sir,

This afternoon arrived in these Bounds about 6,000 of Hyder's Troops: Horse & foot with 7 Guns, Mr. Lally and three other French men are come into the Fort, and are at present with the Governor, They say their intention is to go to the Southward.

I came this day on board of a Danish Europe Ship to dine with Capt. Daniel & some other friends who are on the point of going for Europe. I recd. two Messages from the Govr., desiring that I would not come on Shore, as he recd. a Letter from the Embassadors this Day saying, that

Fort St George 26th March 1781

if they did not Deliver me up to Hyder's People, that they were resolved to lay Siege to this Place, I shall write to you again to morrow what Intelligence I Can Learn. — With this I Send a packet just come to hand from Col: Brathwaite. — I have the honor to be with the greatest respect —

Sir
your most Obed.t
Humble Servant
C: M.c Intosh.

Tranquebor
Roads 16.th March
1781.

N.B: M.r Lally I understand from the Gov.rs Messengers has enquired for me — 6: o'Clock P. M.

Ordered that the Indent of Stores, for the use of the Army be referred to the Committee of Stores, to be Complied with immediately —

Indent referred to the Committee of Stores.

To the Honble Charles Smith Esq.r
President & Governor &c. Select Committee
Fort St George —

Gentlemen,

From T. with Intelligence of the loss of the Outward bound Indiamen: proposes coming to Madras on acct. his bad state of health, his remarks on Conica Seiba Pillah's being sent to Tanjore —

I am sorry to transmit you the enclosed Para: of a Letter from the Resident at Anjengo, received from Tanjore, as it conveys to us the disagreeable news of the Capture of our five outward bound Indiamen near Madeira in August last. It is a Blow which we shall feel here very Severely as we have lost by it our Annual Supplies both of Men & Military Stores, and at a time when they were never more wanted, or could be more essentially useful to Our Interests in this Country. I hold it further as an Occurrence of So injurious a Nature as ought to induce the Company's Governments at the respective Presidencies to seek for every means whereby to extricate their Affairs from the distresses in which they are involved, the more especially as they are not

not likely now to receive any Speedy relief from home -

In my Letter of the 12th Inst. I forwarded for your information Copy of my Letter to the Governor of Nagapatam, and I now enclose you Copy of the English translate of the Answer I have rec.d - to which any immediate reply is the less Necessary as Mr. Huddleston's having left Nagore leaves them free to pass and repass the Bounds there at pleasure -

I transmit you Dupliates of my two last Letters - I have rec.d no Accounts from you of a later date than the 5th Inst. at which I am not a little uneasy, as I am with out Information wither any Steps have been taken in the Military Operations I recommended in your quarter, & of the motions of the Bengal Detachment under Col. Pearse, which I am Anxious to have frequent Intelligence of, as either it's approach or Detention must be allowed weight in any Resolution I might take reguarding the Operations of this Army, which is become now a point of the most Serious Consideration as all Supplies for its Support are daily more uncertain - I have no prospect of Getting any more provisions from the Southward now that Nagore is evacuated Neither on Account of the change of the Monsoon will there be a possibility of Sending me any more from the Northward, at least with a Certainty of their reaching me in the time I might want them - The distressed Situation I am in for want both of Money & Carriage for provisions I have already Stated to you, and as my health is at present very indifferent, so much so as to Confine me to my Bed, and to render me incapable of that Active personal Attention which is necessary at this Juncture, I have some thoughts of Visiting the Presidency, as well with a View to the Recovery thereof, as to

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to have an Opportunity of Consulting with You regarding the Plan to be pursued for the future Operations of the Campaign - As also Conjunctly with You to endeavor to devise means whereby to Secure - both Money & Provisions for the future maintainance of the Army - Satisfied that I could not employ the few days I might be Obliged to be Absent more Usefully than in the above mentioned Objects, I would not hesitate a moment in determining on my departure but on Account of the Delay & difficulty which might attend my return, as both the Wind and Current are now Strong from the Southward - I Shall however Consult with the Seafaring Gentlemen who Can best inform me what time it might take up to perform the Voyage thither & back again and decide accordingly -

The Army in its present Station is perfectly Secure, and lest it Should be Obliged to move, I have employed the Pioneers and Artificers belonging to it in Strengthning Cuddalore, by Completing the Ditch and throwing a Stockade all round it - The expence to the Company will be little or Nothing, and it will Secure the Place against any Danger from a Surprize, which it was not before, altho it will not be tenable if besieged, and which is a further Proof how Necessary the Presence of the Indiamen were at this Place in order to bring off the Gentlemen of the Factory, together with the Troops, Stores and the Company's Effects - Even as it is, if the Army Should move to the Northward, it may be necessary to evacuate the Place, as I do not see how the Garrison could either be paid or Supplied with Provisions - The Poor Inhabitants are already in the greatest distress, and their Calamities are Daily encreasing - A famine I may Say is begun, and

must

Fort St George 26th March 1781

must soon make dreadful havock Amongst them, nor is it in my power to relieve them, Unless I chose to bring the Same Misfortune upon the Army —

I have the pleasure to Acquaint You that I have rec.d Letters from Tanjore which inform me of the Arrival of Messrs. Davidson & Gourdan on the 13th Inst. at that place, I have hear.d also but with what truth it is impossible for me to Say, as I have had no bublic intimation given me of it, that Comnicka Soubapillah has gone to Tanjore, under the protection of these Gentlemen — but I trust not to be made any publick use of. However this may be, I cannot help Observing that Stigmatized as Comnicka Soubah Pillah is on Your own Records, not only as a Man of a most Base & Infamous Character, but one highly Obnoxious to the Rajah, because of his Infidelity when his Servant, he was a very improper Person to be permitted in any Shape to Appear in the Tanjore Country at so Critical a period as this, and I Should not be Surprized if the Rajah, apprehending Some Violent measures intended against his Authority & Government, Should invite the Enemy to his Support & protection — In justification of my Self, I must (at the Same time I acknowledge my entire Ignorance of Comnicka Soubah Pillah being of the Party when Messrs. Davidson and Gourdan were there) in this Public manner Declare my disapprobation of his being at all employed, either as a private or public Agent in Settling with the Rajah for the discharge of his Arrears of Tribute to the Company, or the Regular payment of it in future — If he is, it will I am Convinced irritate the Rajah's mind to a degree which may drive him to the adoption of a Conduct which may be productive of the most

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most ruinous Consequences to Our Affairs — I have been thus explicit that you may not for want of knowing the Danger which threatens our Interests by Countenancing So infamous a Man as Connicka Soubah Pillah, delay taking Such Steps as may Obviate it, at the Same time I think there is a risk of their being too late —

I have the Honor to be,
Gentlemen,
Your most Obedient,
Humble Servant,
Eyre Coote.

Camp, Newtown,
19th. March, 1781.

Para of a Letter recd. from the Resident of Anjengo 2d March 1781 —

The Lively Brig Commanded by Capt. Forrest arrived here the 27th ult. having left Falmouth the 1st. Novr. last with dispatches for the Three Presidencies and for Sir Edward Hughes — He has brought the disagreeable News of the Godfrey — Royal George, Hilsborough, Gattor, & mount Stewart, out ward bound East Indiamen, having been Captured near Madaira in August last by a Fleet of Spanish & French Men of War, which carried them in to Cadiz — But in America it Seems our affairs were beginning to wear a more favorable Aspect — than they had done for these last two or three Years — Lord Cornwallis having totally routed the Congress Army in South Carolina under Genl. Gates — after the former had reduced Charles Town — Some of the Rioters in London have Suffered L.d Geo. Gordon Still remained in the Tower —

To the Honorable Sir Eyre Coote
General and Commander in Chief of the British Military forces in the East Indies &c. &c. &c.

Honble

1780 Fort St George 26th March, 1781

Honble Sir,

Your most respected Letter of the 8th Inst. We had the particular honour to receive, and give ourselves by this the contentment thereto to Answer, with the most Friendship

We have already by Letter of the 21st Decr. last of which we take the Liberty to inclose herein a Copy given to Mr. Hudleston / tho' we were not obliged to doe't / with all Sincerety and Friendship and a knowledge of the reasons which had moved us to resolve to Send Deputies to Hyder Aly Can, Namely only to know what His Highness had to propound, and Come and give us report, so that we Surely trusted, that by Mr. Hudleston Should not be refused the by the undersigned Governor desired permission for Our Deputies to pass through the territories resorting under Nagore, tho' by that Letter no mention at all was made of the reasons for their Sending, and to this we trusted the more as by no European Power it is Customary to refuse passage to Ministers of Neuteral Powers through their territories, the more when one is informed so as Mr Hudleston was, that nothing prejudicial to the interest of the Sovereign or State through whom's territories men must pass, is aimed at by the Deputation —

But Since you desire to be informed beforehand of the intention of Our Deputation, we will / tho' we must again declare not to be beholden to doe't / out of Consideration of the Long Lasting Friendship which has Subsisted between the Kingdom of England and Our Republick, and out of regard for you Sir willingly there to Condescend —

And in Consequence we declare by the present on the most

solemn

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Solemn manner, that by the before mentioned Deputation, nothing is aimed at either for the present or future to favour by any means the Operations or Interest of Hyder ally Cann to the prejudice of the British Nation, or the English East India Company, at the same time we assure You more and above that during the present War, in every thing the strictest Neutrality shall be observed which ever any Power or their Subjects between Powers at war have observed. And as we trust we have by this our Open Declaration to You given all Contentment which ever You Could expect. We request by repetition in the Name of the Republick of the United Neederlands and the Neederlands East India Company to Grant Vice Versa a free passage through the territories of the English East India Company to the Deputies which we intend to Send to Hyder ally Cann by which you will very much Oblige us —

We have for the remaining the honour to be with all regard —

Honorable Sir,

your most humble
obedient Servants

Naagapatam
in the Fort the
15th of March 1781.

/Signed/ R. Van Vlissingen
J. C. G. Haselman,
F. Mossel P. C. Van Haaren,
J. DeSimons, W. Stoffenberg,
J. W. Bloeme, Joh. Iccama,

For the Translation
John Godfroy De Rocho

Neederlands

Meant there

The Committee much lament the Capture of the five Outward bound Indiamen, mention'd by the Gen., & the Loss will be the more Sensibly felt at present, as the Men & Stores taken are so much wanted at this Critical Juncture — The Committee are Sincerely Concern'd at the Gen.

Fort St George 26th March 1781

General's bad State of Health. & Should he be of opinion that his presence from the Army, Can be dispensed with, & that a Short Visit to the Presidency will be attended with any good Effects, they will be happy in the opportunity of Conferring with them on the future measures necessary to be adopted. respecting the Generals Observation regarding Connaca Suba Pillah, the Committee cannot but express their wish, that the General had desired an explanation of the fact he had hear'd concerning him, before he had proceeded to an Opinion upon it - The truth is, the Committee never gave any Instructions, respecting this man, but as the Rajah, had repeatedly requested of the Governor that Conacca Suba Pillah might go to Tanjore to Settle his Accounts, They were willing to give him an opportunity but without meaning that he Should in any Shape be employed, either, publickly or privately, Contrary to the Inclination of the Rajah - They hope, indeed that if the Rajah, really entertained any apprehensions of this kind, that they are removed, as they are informed that Conaca Suba Pillah is now at Nagapatam, & has no intentions of going to Tanjore -

To the Honble Chas. Smith Esqr.

From Dr. M. Kudleston evacuates Nagore.

President and Govr. & Cou. Select Committee

Fort St George.

Gentlemen

You are already informed by Letters of the 18th & 19th Inst. of Mr. Kudlestons having evacuated Nagore, and brought with him the Troops which were stationed there together with all the Stores & Effects belonging to the Honble Company, that either this time or the

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the Conveyances he had Could enable him to Carray away-
He is the Bearer of this, and will inform you of all
particulars — I have only therefore to add, that not only
his Conduct which was Active and zealous in afecting
the wants of the Army, whilst at Nagore, but his quitting
of it in the manner and at the time he did have met
my entire approbation — Had he attempted to have remain-
-d, and the Commanding Officer to have defended the
Place, which Could make no long resistance, I conceive
ere now that they must have fallen a Sacrafice to the
Enemy — But the Intelligence I have recd. Monsieur Lally
has Since made his appearance there with 16 pieces of
Cannon — and Hyder it is confidently Said is going a-
gainst Tanjore —

A Vessel arrived here last night that left
madras as I am Informed the 15th Inst & Bongal about
19 Days ago, but I do not yet know whether She has
brought me Letters from either of these places at which
I am not a little uneasy — The Vessel reports that She
was Chased by thirteen Armed boats a few miles to the
Northward of this Place — which Shews how indefatigable
Hyder is in all his endeavors to Distress us —

I have the Honor
to be - Gentlemen,
Your most Obed.t
Humble Servant
Eyre Coote.

Camp Newtown
21st March 1781.

To the Honble Chas. Smith Esqr.
President & Governor &c Select Committee
Fort St George

Gentlemen

Last Night I ordered out a detachment
consisting

From Genl. Coote,
advising of the march of
a detachmt. sent out
under Capt. Biddulph

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consisting of 3 Batt.ns of Seapoys under Command of
Captain Bitlisse inorder to attack a Horse Camp belong-
-ing to the Enemy, distant about 9 miles from hence — and
to Support them Ordered a Second Detachment to follow
about three o'Clock this Morning under Command of Major
M.c Kenzee, the Field Officer of the Day, Consisting of two
Battalions of Seapoys with their Guns, & four hundred
Cavalry with the Guns of that Corps, and along with which
Gen.l Munro went — The Detachment under Capt.n
Bitlisse fell in with the Camp and Surprized them, and
but for the badness of the Draught Bullocks with the Gen.l
Munro the Surprize would have been Complete, and they
would have been hemmed in, So that Very few of the Number
which were Supposed to be about 1,500 hundred, could have
escaped — They have however had Some Success, having taken
about 30 Horses 60 Bullocks, a Camel loaded with Rockets
and wounded and killed a great many of the Enemy; They
have plundered the Camp, in which they found in
proportion to the Numbers great plenty of Provisions
and all kind of Bazar Articles which Shews how well they
are Supplied —

I leave you to judge Gentlemen when on to Dryslon
an Occasion as this, an Entire prize is I may Say entirely
Defeated by the badness of the Bullocks what disappoint-
-ments may I not experience from the Same Cause in
more important transactions — Unless Some means are
fallen to Supply Gram for feeding the Cattle they must
Soon be unserviceable, and I Shall have no resource left
to enable me even to Change my ground Than Spatting
the artillery on Board a Ship —

I have the Honor to be
Gentlemen
your most Ob.t Humble Serv.t
Eyre Coote

Camp Newtown
9.D. march 1781.

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To His Excellency Lt General Sir Eyre Coote KB &c &c &c

Sir,

With this I send two Letters which are lately come to hand, the Governor here will not even let me have a Catta-maran to send to Cuddalore - He has Ordered me not to come on Shore, and the Capt. of the Danish Ship on board of which I was, has ordered his Officers not to let me Stay there - I have now taken my Lodging on board of a Moor Snow in the Roads, until I can procure a passage for Cuddalore - It is reported that Hyder's whole Army is to pass to the Southward this Day or to morrow, Mr Davidson & Bourdan &c are arrived at Tanjore - I have the Honor to be with the greatest Respect,

Sir

Your most Obedient

Humble Servant

/Signed/ C: McIntosh

Tranquebar Roads,
18th March 1781 ~

The Committee are Sorry to learn that the approach of the Enemy towards Nagore has obliged Mr Hudleston to evacuate that Garrison, but are happy that his Conduct has met with the General's approbation

Minute thereon

Read the following Letter from Masulipatam.

To the Honble Charles Smith Esqr

President and Governor &c Select Committee.

From Masulipatam respecting the Conduct of the Zemindars in that District ~

Fort St George ~

Honble Sir & Sirs,

We have been favored with your Commands under date the 28th Ultimo, the orders they Conveyed respecting the Zemindars have been duly observed, and we shall

now

26th

Fort St George 26th March 1781 ——

now acquaint you with their Effects. Row Mahapatty Row Zemaindar of Pettapore arrived in this Pettah on the 7th Instant, having Continued his Journey agreeably to our former advices, acquainting You with his setting out, Jaggapatty Rawze after quitting his Fort, and being upon his way, which upon advice there of from the Offizier Sent to escort him we before Communicated to you, alledged Some Plea for returning back and having done So thus hither to remained in his Fort; he has not yet even Sent an answer to our letter, Conveying your Orders, we know not how to account for this Conduct, for Since his first hesitation after quitting the fort, a Cowle of Security has been forwarded to him at his own Request, and we understood when this was yielded to, it would Satisfy all his Scruples, but the event has disappointed us; Tripspaterauze of Mugglatoor has Sent an Answer to the letter that was addressed to him, with your Orders for his repairing thither, Copy of which Comes enclosed.

We have the Satisfaction to inform Your Honor &c. of the arrival of a part of the Benga Detachment on the 12th. Instant at Ganjam, and that it was to be followed by the whole Body on the 13th. on 14th. The near approach of this force has Suggested to us the Expediency of laying before you in one view the General State of, as well as particular Political affairs in this District, what they are now, and what they have been for Some time past. as Such a Sketch will enable you to determine in what manner the presence of the above Force may be made to avail the Public Service most effectually; and how far

Such

Such Assistance is required, We believe it will not exceed the truth to Say, that for Some time past a disposition to slight the Company's authority has almost universally prevailed in these Districts, the Causes of these proceedings are obvious, On the one hand the Zemindars are excited by the grievous Sense of their very heavy incumbrances Secretly to wish for a change, by which they would at once be relieved from this Burthen, their Hopes in this respect were greatly encouraged by what passed in the Course of last year to the Southward, and they have been Continually fed and kept alive for these last two or three months by Some little untoward Circumstances happening every now and then in these parts, the alarm of the Privateers, the news of the arrival of a French fleet, the uncertainty of what part the Soubah means to take, which we by no means think improbable they Secretly flattered themselves would be against us, the Delay in the approach of the Bengal Detachment, which at one time it was believed would not come at all, The several Circumstances we have here recited have we believe given rise to that Disposition mentioned above, which has led them to manifest a disregard for the Company's authority, We do not think however that it yet amounts to any rooted Disaffection and it appears to us to be chiefly owing to the pressure of their Debts, which Some of them, and Trepiterauze in particular, despair almost of being able at any time entirely to acquit. whether their representation of these Matters be true or not, it is impossible for us to Say, we Should think it to be greatly exaggerated, but it yet must be allowed there is a heavy load upon them; We proceed to the particulars of the Sketch of affairs here we proposed to give you;

relieved

yet it

The

Fort St George 26th March 1781 -

The Conduct of Jaggapuddeerauze and Trippetteerauze you are already informed of, there is some thing how= =ever Still to add respecting the former: one of the Gentlemen Sent out to collect the provisions for the Detachment, has informed us, that not Content to withhold assistance of any kind upon this occasion, which we have repeatedly Solicited, he has given orders to his People even not to Sell the articles we may Stand in need of, but for money in hand - and has insisted, that the Duties be first paid on every thing thus disposed of - We have not received information to this effect Concerning any other Zemindars, but not one of those we have applied to, has Contributed the assistance required from him, altho' every Step has been taken to persuade, and even Soothe them into a Compliance, we Could possibly devise - In the North Western parts of these Districts, in the Neighbourhood of Rajah = =mundry, the Polavaram Zemindars family whose Country is under Trippetteerauze, has been in arms for Some time past, and in November last the Zemindar Nursimloo was Killed there, Soon after the Manager for Trippeteerauze Toremutrow, who had raised a force to quell these Disturbances was Cut off by Nursimloos Party, This man was renter of Colapillee, and only Commenced his Rent last year - We do not yet know what gave rise to the Troubles wherein he lost his life, a Person has been Sent into those parts to quiet these Troubles and we wait his return to inform your Honor &c^a more fully herein, In the Western parts of the District beyond Kondapillee, a Disturbance has been lately excited, in a great measure as we believe by the Sur= =sistence of Appparow, by whose means a Nephew of

vaseredgy -

789 Fort St George 24th March 1781—

Vaseredy Ramanah Zemindar of Nundegamah, has been enabled to raise a Body of Peons and Pike men, with which he Lately marched into his Uncles Country, with an intent to lay it waste — Several of Our Little Zemindars, those of Bezoara, Mylavaram, Chentalapoondy, & — Madoore Gullos, engaged in this Enterprise at the Instigation of Opparoo, whose Policy it has been to keep himself out of sight as it were in this Transaction, by not Serving himself in person, whilst he Secretly abets the Cause of Venkeyah to the utmost of his Power — Vaseredy Ramanah having applied for Assistance, a party of Sepoys with a Gun has been detached from Konda Pillee for that purpose, and our last Accounts inform us Vaseredy had receivd some overtures from his Nephew, from which it was expected a treaty would follow, and the matter be Settled, altho' Opparoo was repeatedly forbidden to give Assistance of any kind to Venkeyah, he has Continued thro' out to evade the Commands that were laid upon him; In all other parts of these Districts the Country is in peace, but it is peace with very little Subjection, or order, The Zemindars in general reside in their Forts, are Surrounded with an armed force, and Submit to Such orders alone as they are pleased to approve, Trippatenauze however is the only Zemindar whose fort is Capable of making any resistance —

Having Stated these Matters to your Honor &c, it may perhaps be expected that Some Opinion Should be offered upon the whole view of what has been laid before you, But here we find ourselves at Some loss, upon what grounds to proceed — to Consider the State of affairs in these Parts in a distinct view, and without

parts

without Connection with one general System, the Measures to be taken would require but little thought. The Bengal Detachment marching thro' the Countries and close to the Forts of three of the Principle Zemindars, Pagapateraauze Bow Vencataraw, and Troiloketeraauze of Maggletoor, it would give but little interruption to their progress to possess themselves of each, and Secure the Persons of the Zemindars, Means might also be fallen on to Seize at the same time on Opparow, and get Possession of his Fort, Such a Step would effectually put a Stop to any Secret Machinations and re-establish your authority, but we apprehend it might be attended with Consequences that at present you must wish to avoid, these people Could not Speedily be released again, Zemindars must be Sent to take possession, the Country would at first be thrown into some Confusion, the Credit of the Zemindars exceedingly injured, and the Payment of their Debts from all these Circumstances still further protracted, so decisive a measure therefore does not appear to us Consistent with a principle object we Suppose you to have in View, that of Securing Some Considerable and Speedy payments - We think however that in case this measure is expedient enough. Troiloketeraauze who labours under the greatest load of Debt, and who, as we conjeture, must have Some hidden resources, Should in Our Opinion be Secured, and his Fort taken possession of, if he has these resources he will probably have recourse to them, if he has them not, he has been trusted too long with so large a Charge of Countries, which ought in such Case to be placed in other hands, and for this purpose alone it would be necessary to Seize his Fort, without which

which it is not probable he would yield to Our Determination -
Opparaw Should also we think be made a prisoner, for
nothing Can be done with this Country, of which we have
very Sufficient experience, whilst he remains at large -
Row Makepatteraw having obeyed the Summons tho' with
Some Delay, for which however he is not without excuse, having
been returned to his Country only Six weeks, there will not
you will think perhaps be occasion, to proceed to an extre-
=mity with him, - Jaggapatteraauze has offended as deeply
as any of them - but we entertain an opinion he is in
Circumstances to make good his payments, and that it
might throw us out of a chance for these, to adopt violent
measures against him - He has besides in your late
reappointment of Vencatarayloo to the Marafsy, a
Subject of discontent, thro' his animosity to that man,
from whom as we were advised at the time, he was a
principal Cause of that Marafsy being taken away,
that will account for his present Conduct. We do not
mean to Say that it will justify or even extenuate this
Conduct, but Merely that it explains the motive of it,
and makes it probable, that he has not been refractory
from any rooted Disaffection, but rather from a Dis-
=gust that will we hope be nothing more than tempo-
=rary, - The proceedings against Opparaw & Treppeterauze
will we are persuaded have an effect to awe the Other
Zemindars, and bring them back to a Sense of their Duty,
and by Carrying this rigour no further it appears to
us that the reestablishment of your authority in these
parts, and the Security of the Ballances, the two
great objects we Suppose you to have in View, will

be

Fort St George 26th March 1781.

ided.

be most effectually provided for; We think it our duty however to Observe before we conclude this Subject, that untel the Balances are cleared, or a very material Change of affairs happens to the Southward, your Military force in these parts will admit of no Diminution, if you expect to Continue to make the full Collections. —

We are Respectfully
Honble Sirs & Sirs
Your most obedient
humble Servants
James Hodges
John Peter Boileau
Alex Pringle

Masulipatam
21st March 1781.

Representation of Cuddindy Treppeterauze

I have received your favour advising me to repair immediately to Masulipatam, I intended to proceed to pay you a visit and expose to you the whole of my affairs, and to have your Assistance in Settling my Business, but cannot as I am sick. If you will please to allow me to remain here one month I shall be better, I will Satisfy the Sowcar, after which I will proceed to Masulipatam, & can be able to prepare myself to Settle the Business with the Company by your Assistance, The People in this Place are afraid of the Officer and Sepoys remaining here, Should I find myself better I will proceed immediately —

The

Fort St George 26th March 1781

Minute thereon.

The Committee are Concerned to remark the refractory Disposition among the Zemindars, which they hope proceeds more from the Causes mentioned by the Gentlemen at Masulipatam, than from any real Dis-affection towards this Government, yet the Committee are of opinion that they should avail themselves of the present favourable opportunity of checking it as much as possible, & hope that the approach of the Bengal Troops, will enable them to do it without adopting Coercive measures, which they wish to be avoid, particularly as the march of that Detachment must not on any account be delayed.

Read the following Letters.

Rec.d 22d. March Duplicate

To the Honble the President &c. Select Committee at Fort St George

Honble Sir & Gentlemen,

From Mr. Morley Lively Being arrives at anjengo with Packets of consequence, & Intelligence of the Eatward bound Indiamen having been taken &c.

The Lively Brig commanded by Capt. Tho.s Forrest, arrived here the 27th. ultimo, having left Falmouth on the 1st. November last with Packets from the H.o the Court of Directors, for the three Presidencies in India & Sir Edwd. Hughes, which her Commander was ordered to Convey to Madrass, but making Cape Comorin on the 26th. of last month, he judged it advisable to touch at this Port, from whence he Sailed last night, to proceed to Tellicherry, if not to Bombay, in Consequence of the Intelligence that had been received of the French Fleet having lately come to the Coromandal Coast.- The Packet brought by this Vessel which is addressed to your Honor &c.a, I have opened, agreable to your directions, for the purpose of taking Copies of the Papers it contained.— Those for the H.o the Gov.r Gen.l & Council at Calcoutta & the H.o the President & Council at your Place,

to

Calcutta

Capt.

194 Fort St George 2d March 1781

Capt. Forrest has delivered to the Care of Mr. Wm. Webber, a Civil Servant on the Bengal Establishment, who intends embarking on a Danish Company's Ship now at Colatchy, which is expected to sail for Trenquebar about the 15th inst.; The same Opportunity I shall also embrace to forward the Original Packet for years Hon.rs &c.a and a Copy of its Contents will be sent by any other eligible Sea Conveyance that may offer, it appearing to me highly improper to trust it by an overland Messenger, during the present unsettled State of the Southern Provinces, on account of the Clear Communication it affords (not in Cypher) of our H.rs Masters Views & Intentions on several Subjects of the utmost importance.—

I am with greatest respect—

H.rs Sir & Gentlemen

Your most Obed.t Humb.e Serv.t

Ja.s Morley—

Anjengo
The 2.d March
1781—

Duplicate.—

Mr. Morley presents his most respectful Compliments to the H.ble Gov.r Smith and begs leave to Communicate to him the disagreable Intelligence brought by Captain Forrest, of the five undermentioned East Indiamen, with 62 west Indiamen, having been captured near Madeira, in August last, by a Fleet of Spanish & French Men of war, which carried them in to Cadiz:— Godfrey, Royal George, Hillsborough, Gatton, & Mountstuart,

Anjengo the 2.d March 1781.—

There was another packet . . . . kept in readiness to be dispatched to India, when the Lively Sailed from England—

Fort St George 26th March 1781

To Richd J. Sullivan Esqr.

Military Secretary

Fort St George.

From Capt. Gibbings
appointed Black
Officers.

Sir,

I have this Day received your Letter of the 6th Inst. acknowleging the receipt of my Letter of the 3d January to the Honble the Governor & Select Committee, and of their having (in consequence of my representation to them) Granted me their permission to appoint Black officers to the Supernumerary Sepoys I have raised, which shall be immediately Complied with, and it will make me happy to get arms for them as soon as possible - I am.

with Esteem,

Sir

your most Obedient

Humble Servant

Robt Gibbings,

Madeira,
10th March 1781.

In Consequence of the Letter received on the 20th Inst. from Captains Thomson & Tod, the following Order is directed to be Sent to them -

To Captain Dawed Thompson,

of the Ship Dartmouth.

To Capt. Thompson & Tod to prepare immediately for Sea

Sir

we have received your letter of the 20th Instant, with the papers enclosed and are much concerned to perceive Such Impediments thrown in the way of the Public Service at this critical Juncture, when there are the Justest Grounds for apprehending a very great Scarcity of Grain of all Sorts on this Coast -

The exigency of Affairs therefore rendering

it

of

ay

it indispensably necessary that your Ship Should be employed in Such manner as any be deemd most beneficial to the publick in general you are hereby Ordered and directed, to Hand with all posible expedition the whole of the Honble Company's Consignment to for Bengal, now on board your Ship, and to hold her in readiness to proceed to Sea without Loss of time, to expedite this most essential Service the Master Attendant has our positive Injunctions to render you all Assistance in boats and every thing else that you can require.

26th March

We are,
Sir,
the Same to Capt. Tod.

Came in the following letter from Captain George Mackay, Commanding at Chinglepet

To the Honble Charles Smith Esq. Govt. & President &c. Select Committee

From Capt. Mackay, a Detachment of the Enemy going towards Tripassore

Honble Sir,

I have the Honor to inform you that 2,000 Horse 1000 Infantry & Same Guns came before Wandewash the 23d and are reported to be going towards Tripassore - on this intelligence you may depend - I have had no news from Camp lately -

Honorable Sir,
I am
your very respectful &c. humble
Servant -
George Mackay,
Capt. Com.

Chinglepet, 25th
March, 1781 -

797 Fort St George March, 1781

27th Wrote the following Letter to Sir Eyre Coote

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

Sir

To Sir Eyre Coote
Lamenting the Loss
of the outward bound
Indiaman, and his
bad State of Health,
the Instructions given
to Mr. Davidson and
Lowndes concerning
Saba Pilla —
His Intelligence
from his Patticul
to Cuddalore.

We have had the honor to receive your
Letters of the 18th, 19th, 21st & 22d Instant.

The Loss of the five India Ships is
certainly a very disagreable Event, and must as you observe
be the more severely felt, as the Men and Stores captured with
them are so much wanted at this Juncture. It is some
Consolation however to us to find that the Company were
early apprized of this Misfortune; and would probably
take measures for preserving their Ships with the utmost
expedition. By the Letter which we received concerning
this Event, a Copy whereof is enclosed, you will observe
that Mr. Webber, a Civilian on the Bengal Establishment
was to sail from Anjengo in a Danish Ship about the
15th Instant with the Company's Dispatches for this
Presidency. As he will probably go to Tranquebar
first, it may be necessary to take some measures for the
Security of his Packets. Should they come to your hands
we wish you to open and peruse and desire only that
they may be sent to us by the first safe Conveyance.

early

concerning

We are seriously concerned at the account
you give us of your indifferent state of health, and
should you be of opinion from that Circumstance or

from

2d, from the other reasons you mention that a short Visit to the Presidency might be attended with good Effects, and that your Presence with the Army may during that Interval conveniently be dispensed with, we shall be very happy to see you, and indeed we think your personal Assistance might be of great use in enabling us in some degree to remove the Distresses you complain of in the Articles of Money and Carriage for Provisions. Should you after weighing all Circumstances, adopt the resolution of coming, we recommend to you to leave a Letter for the Admiral requesting him in case he should remove on the Coast before your return, to remain with the Squadron to the Southward, and to send a swift Sailing Vessel hither for the purpose of conveying you back to the Army.

We observe what you have mentioned in your Letter of the 19th respecting Comica Suba Rilla and must express our Wish that you had desired from us an explanation of the Fact you had heard concerning him before you proceeded to an Opinion upon it. The Truth is, We never gave any Instructions to Mr Davidson and Mr Sourdan with respect to this Man, but as the Raja had repeatedly requested of the Governor that Comica Suba Rilla might go to Tanjore to settle his Accounts, We were willing to give him an Opportunity, but without meaning in any shape to employ him publickly as a Servant contrary to the intentions of the Raja. We hope indeed if the Raja really entertained any Apprehensions of this kind that they are removed, as Comica Suba Rilla, we are told is now at Negapatam, and has no intention of proceeding

To

799. Fort St. George March. 1791

27. to Tanjore.

Mr. Huddleston brought us your Letter of the 25th. March, and we are much pleased to find that his Conduct at Negore, and his quitting it at the time and in the manner he did, have met with your Approbation.

The pleasure we feel in the Success of the Detachment which you sent to surprize the Horse Camp on the 21st. is much with some degree of Concern by your representation that it would have probably been compleat, but for the badness of the Draught Bullocks with the Guns. We now send you on the Intelligence Snow about 600 Bags of Horse Gram, which will, we hope, afford you the means of feeding the Cattle for some time. We shall send as much more as we can procure.

We have directed the Orders of the Quarter Master General to be complied with. A Boat with various Articles for the use of the Army, was dispatched by the Agent last night, and we hope to send you the Rest by a Ship we are endeavouring to freight to Cuddalore.

The Intelligence Snow returned from Malacca a few days since. We have put Six Four Pounders on board her with some Swivels, and now dispatch her to Cuddalore, hoping she may be serviceable to you. Captain Drummay reports that he learnt from a Macow Ship that the Second Division of Ships from China, consisting of 7 Sail, were dispatched about the end of January, and as he heard nothing further of them, he concludes they had passed some of the other Straits in safety, as there were no reports of French Cruizers

Sails

200 Fort St. George, March 1781

27 on these seas.

We have peremptorily directed the Captains of the Dartmouth & Rochford, to land the Company's Cargo's for Bengal, at this place, and to be ready to proceed to sea, as soon as possible, as you will perceive by the enclosed Copy of the Orders sent to them.

We are

Sir

Your most obedient humble Servants

Fort St George
27th March 1781

Charles Smith &c
Select Committee

28th Received the following Letters.

To The Honble Charles Smith Esqr
President & Governor &c & Select Committee
at Fort St George.

Gentlemen

From Sir E. Coote, in want of Money, — recommends every exertion to procure it, — regrets an Indiaman has been employed to bring Money from the Northern Settlements, — advising of his bad State of health, — is sorry that

I have the pleasure to acquaint you that the Grosvenor Indiaman arrived safe here on the 24th Instant, when I had the honor to receive your Letter of the 21st Instant.

It gives me real Concern to observe that your distresses for Money are so great, and that all your prospects of Supply should be so uncertain. The Means which have been hitherto furnished me from Bengal, you know have been indiscriminately applied

To

Fort St George, March, 1781

That Circumstances will not admit of his following Lieut. Stewart's opinion with regard to Arnd, and Sir Eyre Coote — Hyder encamped on the banks of the Coleroon — encloses copy of letter from Negapatam.

20. to the Expences of the Army in general, and what shall remains of them, shall doubtless be disposed of in the same manner. But that Fund is very limited and will soon be exhausted. You are fully informed of the situation the Army is in, and know of what importance it is to maintain it; I shall not therefore urge the subject further, but depend upon your exertions for every thing necessary to that end. Satisfied that your regard for the Interests of your Employers and the British Nation, will be sufficient to incite you to the Exertion of every endeavor whereby they may be re-established.

I have in several Letters informed you that my own Operations which shall always be of a nature the most to distress the Enemy, must depend entirely upon their Movements, as must also those of the Bengal Detachment, which is besides yet too distant to be rendered of any Service. I shall however hope to receive constant Intelligence from you of its Approach.

Had the other two Indiamen come down, it might possibly have been in my power to have spared the Success Galley to have gone to the Northward. From the Objections the Captains of the Dartmouth & Rochford have raised to coming, I do not now expect them this way. I should think however that in your present distressed situation for Money, One of them might be employed in bringing what you have resolved to draw from the Northern Settlements.

must

My health continues very indifferent in so much as to confine me to my room, but it shall

not

20, not be with my own inclination should I quit the Army.

I return you General Stuart's opinion on the measure I had suggested of effecting some Military Operations towards Tripassore or Arcot. I am sorry that Circumstances should at present be such as not to authorize the Undertaking, as could either have been effected, it would I am confident, have proved highly favorable to our Military Operations in general.

I enclose for your Information Copy of a Letter which I last night received from the Governor of Negapatam, with Copy of my Answer. However little the Conduct of the Dutch hitherto deserves any Attention from us, still I deem it for the honor of our Nation to afford them every protection in my power.

Hyder by what I can learn is now encamped on the South Banks of the Coleroon a few miles West from Chillumbrum.

I have the honor to be

Gentlemen

Your most obedient humble Servant
Eyre Coote

Camp, New town
26th March 1781

To The Honble Sir Eyre Coote
Commander in Chief of all the British Forces
in the East Indies
at Cuddalore

Honble Sir

It is certainly known to you
That

Fort St George March, 1781

28, That Hyder Ally Cawn sent a Detachment of his Army this way which consists of about 8000 Men & have with them the Party of Monsieur de L'Allée; They have surrounded and so to say blockaded our place, demanding Mr. De Souza, all English and every Inhabitant belonging to Madras, Nabob, or Dependencies with all their Property. Any Answer to such propositions has been that they are not in their Settlement. They continue with their demands and we in bringing our Place in such a posture of Defence as to be able to resist to a more numerous Army. Our People are hearty and will, so that we do not in the least fear them. I have judged necessary to give you this Advice, that you may regulate your Operations. The Country is ruined and Provisions will certainly be very scarce in these quarters very soon.

I recommend myself in your Friendship and have the honor to be with esteem & regard

Honble Sir

Your most humble & obedient Servant

R. V. Vlissengen

Negapatam
25th March 1781

A true Copy
J. Tyler

To The Honble Reinier Van Vlissengen Esqr
Director General for the affairs of the
Dutch Company and Governor of Negapatam

Sir

I feel myself no less honored by your

Letter

804 Fort St George, March, 1781

20 Letter of this date: than I am flattered by its confidential Communications, which I am much concerned you had not entrusted with me sooner, as it would thereby have been in my power, to have offered to your Assistance, the Troops which were in Nagore, instead of drawing them to this place: However I trust that as you are satisfied with respect to the Spirits of your People, you have nothing to fear from the numbers of the Enemy; for I can pronounce, from the examples I have already had, that They are neither formidable nor expert in the Operations of besieging, and by what I have been told, I understand that your Place is in a very good State of Defence.

Hyder Ally Cawn has observed so little distinction in the prosecution of the War in the Carnatic, & has with so equal an unconcern, by his destructive ravages involved all the European nations in India in Ost, that I hold it for the Interests of one and all of them to exert their united Endeavors to free the Country from so great a pest & the common Disturber of its Peace and Tranquillity.

Impressed with these Sentiments and having nothing more sincerely at heart than to contribute every thing in my power to the Support or Relief of your Company's Affairs, I shall embrace with readiness the first favorable Opportunity that may offer in the present state of things, to enable me to exert myself in their behalf. And as the only good means whereby I can be able to judge of the proper time for fulfilling my warmest wishes in your favor, I make free to request of you to send me frequent

and

805 Fort St George, March, 1791

28 and circumstantial Accounts of your Situation.

I am in daily expectation of the Arrival of Sir Edward Hughes on this Coast, with the Fleet under his Command; and as his first Appearance will probably be off your Settlement, I have not a doubt he will be equally well disposed as myself to give you every Assistance.

A very respectable Army is also far advanced on its March from Bengal to the Carnatic, under Command of Colonel Pearce, so that I think Hyder Ally will soon have reason to repent of his breaking his Friendship with the English Company.

I beg you not to conceive from the mention of these Circumstances that I mean the Aid to be given you, should depend upon either. Far from it. I am anxious for an early and favorable Opportunity to be myself instrumental to your Relief.

Depend on my friendship and confidence and assure yourself of my being with esteem & regard

Sir

Your most obedient humble Servant
Eyre Coote

Camp Newtown
25th March 1791

A true Copy
G Tyler

To The Honble Charles Smith Esqr
President & Governor &c &c &c Select Committee
at Fort St George

From Ganjam
the Bengal detachment
arrived there.

Honble Sir & Sirs

I have the satisfaction to inform
you

28, now Colonel Pearce with his Army arrived here this morning. They have had a fatiguing March along the Sea Beach from Manicha patam. Most of their Bengal Attendants are deserting them, and I find they have many wants. I hope to give them ample Supplies of Provisions, and I shall do every thing in my power to facilitate their March.

I have the honor to be

Honble Sir & Sirs

Your very obedient
humble Servant
John Turing

Carjam
17th March 1781

To The Honble Charles Smith Esqr
President & Governor &c &c Select Committee
of Fort St George

Honble Sir & Sirs

From Dr Capt
with acct of ins
sent from Bengal.

I have had the honor to receive your Commands of the 20th Instant through your Secretary, enclosing me an Extract of a Letter from the Honble The Governor General & Council of Bengal, desiring I would furnish you with an Account of such Consignments as I received from Messrs Lewis & Co of Calcutta in the year 1780.

I have the honor to acquaint you, that as there was an appearance of Scarcity of Grain in the latter end of the year 1779 & being sensible that the Company would want Rice for the Garrison of Fort St George

807 Fort St. George March, 1781

28 Fort St. George; I commissioned Mr. Lewis de Costa to send me the quantity of 200 Parce of the best sort of Rice; 182 Parce of which or thereabouts arrived in the following bottoms Viz.t

1780 in January, Snow Frederichnagore, Capt.n Le Franc

Ship Juliana Theresa, Capt.n Almeida

2.d Mons.r Rene Pudet
2.d Captain.

March Ship Essex Capt.n Primerose

Ship Alfred Capt.n Bayly the

The particulars of the Cost and Charges I cannot furnish your Honor &c.a with, as I left the several Invoices and all my Papers at Madras, but Morgan Williams Esq.r my Attorney on looking over them, will easily find them.

The said Rice was delivered by me into Store as Garrison Storekeeper the 23.d June 1780, and sent to Bombay on the Ships Resolution and Prince. The Amount of its Prime Cost & Charges at Calcutta without those at Madras, as far as I can recollect was Current Rupees 53,000 odd hundred, for which Draughts were made on me in favor of different Gentlemen at Madras, and the whole amount was cleared just before I left the Presidency.

I have the honor to remain with great respect.

Honble Sir & Sirs

Your most obedient humble Servant
E. B. Dent

Cuddalore
26.th March 1781

308 Fort St George March. 1781

28.

To The Honble Charles Smith Esqr
President & Governor &c. &c. Select Committee
of Fort St George.

Honble Sir & Sirs

From Captain Thornton dated pointing out the difficulty of landing the Company's Cargoe at this Season of the year.

We are honord with your Letter of the 24th Instant directing us with all possible expedition to land the whole of the Company's Cargoe now on board our Ships for Bengal and to be in readiness to proceed to Sea without loss of time. In a former Letter we stated to you the length of time which would be requisite to fit out our Ships for any Voyage but that of their original destination, and by so doing we referred a provisional Question to be confirmed or refuted by the Professional Experience of your Master Attendant or any other Person acquainted with Naval Affairs whom you might be pleased to consult, but without any reference of this kind being made that we know of, we find ourselves with no less Surprize than Concern formally accused of throwing Impediments in the way of the Public Service at this critical juncture when there are grounds for apprehending a Scarcity of Grain of all sorts on this Coast. Your intentions, Gentlemen, as then expressed to us, were to dispatch our Ships to Cuddalore without unloading any part of their Cargoes, and to place ourselves under the Orders of Sir Eyre Coote, how this could be the means of supplying the Coast with Grain, or how the Obstacles we stated (supposing them to have been false and fictitious) could affect or impede such a Supply we are really at a loss to

comprise

20, conceive, on the contrary, we can safely and confidently aver, that the Public Service has ever been the first object of our Attention; That our own Private Interests have given way to it, and are now daily sacrificing for this end; - and that the Letters which we thought it incumbent on us to write to you upon the Subject, were dictated solely by our Duty to our Owners and the Honble Company. We are now commanded positively to land the Honble Company's Cargoes, and to get our Ships in readiness for any Service you may find it necessary to order us upon. Your Commands, Gentlemen, leaving no room for remonstrance, shall be obeyed with all the punctuality and despatch that we are masters of. But we beg leave to suggest that the Monsoon is now setting in during which our Ships are required and always take the precaution of going into deep water. We cannot deviate from this Rule without taking the Risk upon Ourselves, and much delay will necessarily be the consequence; besides we know it will be attended with great hazard to the Ships to shift their Cargoes at a season of the year when a change of the Monsoon is daily expected. The risque of unloading while the Southerly Winds prevail with such force, is another material object. You daily see with what difficulty and danger the Boats have been employed for these several days past and how little service has been done, and by the best information we can obtain it will be the same for some time. We assure you Gentlemen, that no Men can feel more for the distresses of this Coast under the present appearance of Scarcity than we do, nor would any Men go further in their

Endeavors

20. Endeavors to effect its relief by a timely Supply of Grain. But, concluding as we do that you mean to send our Ships to Masulipatam for this purpose, we think it our duty to point out the evident consequence of this measure. The season in which we will arrive there will be so very unfavorable for a communication with the Land, that exclusive of the immediate danger of the Ships from lying in the open roads at the distance of 5 or 6 Miles from the Shore, it will hardly be possible for Boats to bring off a Cargo of Grain for even one of the Ships in less than a month. It will be attended with inconceivable difficulties to unload and refit the Ships for returning down the Bay against the height of the Monsoon. The Voyage back cannot be performed in all probability in less than two Months, too late we fear to afford you the desired Supplies, and already Gentlemen you have our opinions within what time we could bring a Cargo of Rice from Bengal, whither our Ships might instantly proceed, deliver their Cargoes, and be reladen with Rice in as short a period of time as they will get back from Masulipatam with their proposed Cargoes. We beg of you farther to consider the additional importance of our Ships to the Honble Company since the Capture of five of their Outward bound Indiamen, a circumstance which makes it the more necessary to avoid exposing our Ships to a Stress of Weather which might disable them from performing that Service they otherwise would be of to the Honble Company.

If upon this our Representation you should be pleased to alter our Orders and permit us to proceed

20. proceed for Bengal, We faithfully promise to use all the dispatch in our power in unloading our Ships and taking in a Cargo of Grain for Madras, should the Supreme Council order us thither; to effect which no Endeavors of ours shall be wanting.

We are with the greatest respect

Honble Sir & Sirs

Your most obedient
humble Servants
David Thomson
James Tod

Fort St George
28th March 1791

Dear Sir

As we are rather unacquainted with the Dispatch at this Season and the passages likely to be made to & from places on this Coast, and being anxious to give every Assistance in our power to the Government who is desirous of employing us for the Service; you will much oblige us in giving us some information on the three following points that we may not be led to offer more or less than what our Ships can really effect.

We are

Dear Sir

Your most obedient
humble Servants
David Thomson
James Tod

Fort St George
28th March 1791

812 Fort St. George March. 1781

2d. At what time the Ships can be unloaded & Ballasted fit for Sea?

The discharge of your Ships in your present distant situation & laying to Leward of the landing Place will on account of the Strong Southerly Winds & Northerly Currents, and which are likely to continue be very tedious, as the Boats will seldom make more than one Trip each in the day, which may occasion a length of Four or Five Weeks to deliver and Ballast your Ships for Sea, as you must visit your Ships at this Season with great caution, in case of blowing Weather on the Springs.

2d. The Situation of Masulipatam Road for taking in a Cargo & in what time?

The time in which you will in all probability be at Masulipatam will also render the taking in your Cargoes very tedious, on account of the heavy Swells & Land Winds that prevail during the month of May in that Road.

3d. What Passage is to be expected from Masulipatam to Madras, leaving the former place about the month of June?

The Season for your getting to the Southward about that time you will probably be coming from Masulipatam will occasion a long Passage unless favored by accidental Kamseel Winds, as you will be obliged to stand out in the Bay, & well to the Southward in order to secure it

813 Fort St. George March. 1791

28, Dear Sir

On the opposite side I have given you such information to the Questions you have stated which I think necessary, & which may be esteemed in general likely to fall out.

I remain

Dear Sir

Your

G. Taswell

1st In what time the Ships can be unloaded & ballasted fit for Sea?

Mr. Taswell as Master Attendant of this Port is undoubtedly the best Judge what time it will take to unload & ballast the Ships for Sea.

2d The Situation of Masulipatam Road for taking in Cargo & in what time?

The strong Land Winds that blow in the months of May & the heavy Seas heaving into the Roads render the loading of Ships very tedious as Boats at most can make but one Trip a day & very often not that. I have known in the month of May that Boats have laid five days in the river not being able to get out on account of the heavy Sea heaving.

3d What Passage is to be expected from Masulipatam to Madras, having the former place about the months of June?

The Passage to Madras leaving Masulipatam in June, must be a very tedious one. The Trades which set strong off Shore in that month, make it scarcely possible for a

a large Ship to get round Divy Point, so as to get in shore to the Southward of it, & by being set off, the strong Monsoon Winds and Currents setting to the Northward, make it scarcely possible for Ships to work against it. I have known Vessels leave Masulipatam early in June for Madras & have been drove to Vizagapatam & have arrived here at the time the Bengal Ships generally do.

Nath.l Bacon.

28th March 1791

To Lieut. General Sir Eyre Coote K.B. &c &c

Commander in Chief of the Forces

in India

Sir

We have had the honor to receive your Letter of the 26th Instant & are happy to learn the valuable of the Governor with you.

We think the Resolution shewn by the Dutch to oppose the unjust Demands of Hyder may prove advantageous and particularly should matters come to a Rupture between them. The Answer you returned to Mr Van Ospengen's Letter is in our opinion very proper & likely to produce further Communications from the Dutch. Should Hostilities be commenced at Negapatam, the Dutch may in a Week to avail themselves

To Sir Eyre Coote
the Lieu Brigadiers.
— with a Copy of the
Company's Dispatches
— Col. Pearse arrived
at Tanjore — with
a Copy of Letter from
Captain Thornton
to Ld.

815 Fort St. George March, 1781

2d. of your Assistance be induced to supply Provisions &c.a for the Army, and we are satisfied you will profit to the utmost of the Conjuncture which their pressing Distress is likely to afford you.

The Lively Brig which brought the last Dispatches from Europe anchored in our Road last night with Copies of those Dispatches as taken by Mr Morley the Resident at Anjengo. The original Packet is with Mr Webber who sailed from the other Coast in a Danish Ship for Tranquebar. We hope it may have reached your hands.

We think it proper however to send by the Intelligence Copies of the Company's Letters to us & the principal Papers which accompanied them. The rest of the Papers which cannot be transcribed in time to go by this Vessel shall be forwarded to you as soon as possible. You will observe on the perusal how important these Dispatches are, and how necessary it is to keep the Contents secret. We congratulate you on the prospect of so considerable an Armament coming to this Coast, at a time when there was little reason to expect it.

We learn by a Letter this day received from Mr Turing that Co.l Pearse's Detachment arrived at Tanjore the 17.th in the Evening. Enclosed you will receive Copy of a Letter from the Captains of the Dartmouth & Rochford, in answer to one Ours to them dated the 26.th Instant.

We are

Sir

Your most obedient Servants

Charles Smith &c.a

Fort St. George
29.th March 1781

&c. Select C.

816 Fort St. George March. 1781

30th Received the following Letter from Messrs. Pelling and Dufois.

To Hugh A. Crain Esqr

acting Secretary

From Messrs. Pelling & Dufois with acct. of rice consigned to them by Mr. Lewis & Co. of Bengal.

Sir

We have received your Letter of the 20th Instant and agreable to your desire we send the Accts. required from us of Rice, and other kind of Provisions consigned to Us by Mr Lewis & Costa

We are

Sir

Your most obedient Servants

Pelling & Dufois

Madras
30th March 1781

An Account of Rice, Wheat, and other kinds of Provisions imported from Bengal, which were consigned to Us by Mr Lewis & Costa of said Place.

1779

Oct.r 9 By Snow Boyce Captain Bartlet

	Rice	Bags 1261
	Wheat	194
1780	Patna Peas	84
March 18	By Ship Alfred Capt.n Blyth with Rice freighted to Us	1050
Sept.r 9	By Ship Essex Captain Anderson	
	Rice	3416
	Wheat	200

Oct.r 13.

Fort St. George March, 1791

30 Pct. 13 p Ship Alfred Captain Bremerose

Rice	Bags	5698
Beef in half Leagers		13
Pork in Tierces		16
Refined Soft Sugar	Boxes	20

Tierces.

P Sloop Chinchurah Capt Thessman

Rice		1597

14 " p Snow Polly Captain D'Almeida

Rice		2477

Dec 27 p Snow Friends Captain Townsend

Rice		1412

1791
Jan 8 p Snow Fredericknagore Captain LeFranc

Rice		2500

18 p Sloop Mary Captain Phillips

Rice		1796

1795.

Feb 5 p Sloop Maria Molly Mangy Town

Balasore

Rice		795

6 p Ship Shaw Allum Captain Meacham

Rice		3000

March 19 p Ship Ffox Captain Townsend

Rice		3450
Gram		150
Wheat		170
Tuk or Jongelee		67
Ghee	Jars	31
Oil	Duppers	50

20 p Ship Alfred Captain Bremerose

Rice		5266
Wheat		685
Peas		151
Ghee	Jars	50

Bellura & Co Tonnes

Fort St. George March, 1781

31st Received the following Letter and Report from the Committee of Stores.

To The Hoorble Charles Smith Esqr
President & Governor &c. &c. &c. Select Committee
of Fort St. George

From the Committee of Stores with a Copy of their Proceedings.

Honble Sir & Sirs

Herewith we have the honor to lay before you our Proceedings of this day

We are

Honble Sir & Sirs

Your most obedient Servants
James Stuart
Geo. Maule
B. Scatliffe

Fort St. George
31st March 1781

Fort St. George 31st March 1781

At a Committee of Stores Present
Brigadier General James Stuart
Major George Maule
Bryan Scatliffe Esqr

Minutes of last Committee read and approved.

Having examined an Indent of Stores wanted for Masulipatam, the Committee approve of it, according to the Remarks of the Commissary of Stores.

Dispatched the following Letter

To Captain Edward Edwards
Commanding at
Ongole

Sir

I am directed by the Honble the

819 Fort St George March, 1781

To Capt.n Edmonds, enclosing Letters to Ram Chunder Rauze & Mahomed Bauker Khan at Nellore.

31 The President & Select Committee to enclose, now two Letters, one for Ram Chunda Rauze which they desire you will deliver to him, the other for Mahomed Baukur Cawn which they would have carefully forwarded to him at Nellore, as they contain the most positive Orders immediately to get ready Provisions for the Bengal Detachment

I am &c.

Fort St George
31st March 1781

Your most obedient Servant
Chas S. Crauford
Act Sec.y

April 1st Received the following Letter

To The Honble Sir Thomas Rumbold Bar.t
or Governor for the time being at Fort St George

Sir

Since I had the honor of writing to you from Mocha of the 16th April, I have met with many embarassing and unexpected Adventures, which have considerably impeded my Voyage, and as it may be of use, in forming a Judgment of what may be expected from the people of this Country on future Occasions, by such persons as you may think proper to send this way, I shall take the liberty of being circumstantial in my detail, and rather incur the imputation of Prolixity than of Neglect in leaving any thing material untold. As the Wind blew fresh and very fair when the Coventry got into the latitude of Dadda, Captain Mitchell thought it advisable (it being very late in the Season) to pass that Port, without touching and push for Suez

Chundra Barker

Comm.r Jno. Woodley with an account of his voyage to Cairo — the Plague raging at Smyrna — draws for 600 Pag.s — encloses his receipt for the Sum

1, Sirs. On the 9th May on the Morning we had made within a few Leagues of Tor, but it blowing very hard from the Northward, and being engaged amongst a parcel of Shoals, the Captain thought proper to bear away for a Danish Bay about Seven Leagues to Leward. We put to Sea on the 19th to endeavour to get up, but were obliged again to put back to the Bay, where we remained to the 23d, but it continuing to blow hard from the Northward, Captain Mitchell bore away for Corine where we came to an Anchor the next day. Tho' we had not the least knowledge of the Road by which we were to get to Cairo, sooner than return to India with the Dispatches, we resolved to proceed, and to our great satisfaction there came soon off an Officer from the Governor who informed us that we might, upon Camels, reach the Nile in two or three days, and without difficulty proceed to Cairo by Water in nine or ten days more. Corine has a small Fort partly built of Stone, and partly of Wood, in a very ruinous situation. There is close to it a Village compos of a few miserable Hovels, mostly tumbling down. There happened to be a Caravan there at that time, which had brought Senna from the Banks of the Nile, to load a Barque bound for Jambo on the opposite Coast. I mention this Circumstance as I am sure, from the appearance of Corine, it could not at another time furnish any Mode of Conveyance for many people. We went on shore the next day and made a Visit to the Governor, who received us in a friendly manner and promised us every Assistance in forwarding our Journey.

The

Fort St. George April 1781

We came on board the Coventry next day, and agreed to furnish us Escort of two Officers and ten Guards, with Camels for us and our Baggage. We insisted that such a number of Guards was necessary, tho' the day before he assured us that there was not the least danger in travelling without any; and tho' he was exorbitant in his Charges for them, by what we could afterwards learn, he gave us neither Guards nor Camels, but such as belonged to the Caravan, and which must have returned with it, had we not been with them. The next Morning we set out on our Journey, and in three days arrived at a place called Rumma, on the East Bank of the Nile. Our Journey for the first half way, was thro' Valleys, intensely hot, surrounded with very high Mountains, and the remainder over a Sandy Desart. The Fatigue exceeded any Thing that I had ever experienced. The day after our Arrival we waited on the Bey, were well received by him, and on our return to a House allotted to us, we sent him a Present of some Fire Arms and Musket, and we thought he was pleased, as he soon after sent us some Sherbet and Sweetmeats. He went to have visited his Brother in the Evening, but he sent an Excuse for not seeing us, and informed us that he expected a Present. We therefore sent our Interpreter to him with a Case of Silver mounted Pistols and some Muskets. The Interpreter reported to us that he was not pleased with his Present, and here began the Game which was played on us at Rumma, and one which we have

insisted

in

the

Fort St. George April 1781

the greatest reason to imagine that our Interpreter acted a capital part. But independent of this he has in every other respect behaved in so infamous a manner, that I hope no other Gentleman will ever have the misfortune of falling into his hands. That night there were Guards placed on our house, and Shelby sent for our Interpreter, and as he said threatened him violently; however the next morning we were informed we must pay a large sum of Money, or that Canoes would be sent to overdoo to carry us back over the Desart. As this was nothing less than threatening us with certain Assassination, we found Ourselves under the necessity of submitting to the payment of a Sum of Money, and as they came down from Twenty thousand Dollars, which they at first demanded to Three thousand we agreed to ransom Ourselves at that Sum. The Dey's Minister came to us in the Evening, and received Two thousand five hundred Dollars at the ready Money we allowed we had, the other Five hundred to be paid at Cairo, which now we find they dare never demand here, but we suppose it to be the share of the Plunder allotted to our Interpreter, as he would make us believe that he is responsible for it. The next day they shipped us in a small Boat, and gave us some Provisions to carry us to Furma about thirty Leagues lower down the River. On our arrival Mustapha Bey who governs there, received us with the greatest humanity, gave us one of his own Boats to carry us to Cairo, some Provisions for immediate use, and Money to buy more, for tho' we had some Money left, we were obliged to keep it a secret, and from none more than our Interpreter. On the 16th in the Morning we arrived at Cairo, and that afternoon waited on Hosham

Fort St. George April, 1781

I. Ibrahim Bey who received us courteously and promised an Answer next day to the Letter which we delivered him. He likewise ordered me to wait on him the next Morning that he might send a Person with me to the Basa at the Castle. But Shipprey fortunately for him stayd at home. The Basa's Minister to whom I was first presented, received me very politely, gave me Coffee, and desired me to deliver him the Letters for the Basa. He carried them to him, and after some time, I was ordered into his Presence, when without waiting for my making any Obeisance to him, he flew into a most violent Passion, asked how I dared to come here, and to sail up the Red Sea with two Ships of War. I answered him that I came with Letters to him, and not as a Merchant, as Trade had been forbidden with Cairo, as well as India as from the Porte, and that a King's Ship had been sent to carry the greater appearance of Respect for the Powers here to whom I brought the Letters. He said I was a Traitor, and that our Ambassador had represented at the Porte that all English coming up the Red Sea were Rebels and should be treated as such. Without any further Question he said something in the Turkish Language to his Attendants, two of whom immediately seized me by the Arms, and carried me Prisoner into a distant apartment of the Castle. I must confess that for some Minutes I was not without the most serious Apprehensions of Death or Disgrace, for there was no Violence not to be dreaded from the arbitrary Turn of the Basa's Age and Rank, when he could so far forget the Dignity of his Character as to swear at the mouth with rage. In about an hour my two Interpreters

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Interpreter / people of Cairo as I could not depend on any Answer / who had come with me to the Castle, were permitted to visit me. They informed me that the Basa continued in violent Anger, but that my Person was safe from any further Insult. The Bey next day so strenuously urged my being delivered up to them that I was discharged from the Castle about ten O'Clock at Night, and marched to Ibrahim Bey's under a strong Guard. The next morning I was allowed to go from the Beys, Signor Rosetti, an Italian Merchant of much influence with the Beys, being security that I will not attempt to escape from Cairo. The Basa and Bey have decided that I shall be sent under the care of an Officer to Constantinople and delivered up to our Ambassador there, as a Person that has transgressed the the Orders of the Porte, upon in consequence of this Application.

After all that has happened, I cannot blame the Basa for the measure of his severity so much as for the manner of it, and I doubt not but that you will be of my opinion, when you have perused the enclosed Translation of a Firmaun from the Porte, and have considered how little the Grand Signor hesitates in striking off the head of a Basa, who disobeys his Orders. I am perfectly easy as to my Destination. I even think that my being sent to Constantinople may be of public Utility, and perhaps, the means of obtaining a Firmaun from the Porte, for the Dispatches to and from India, to pass unmolested, however I shall endeavour to convince our Ambassador of the necessity of

Fort St George April 1781

of obtaining such a Firmaun. The Dispatches and
private Letters will meet with no extraordenary Delay,
as Mr Shepsey proceeds with them, by the shortest way
immediately. The Bassa knows of no other Person being
with the Dispatches but myself, and the Boys wish to encourage
the English to come here, and are most anxiously desirous
of promoting a Trade from India, which I am informed
they hope to do on Imperial Bottoms. You will see by
the enclosed Firmaund that religious Prejudices have had
their weight with the Grand Signor in totally forbidding Chris-
tians to be permitted to come higher than Jedda, and yet the
Bassa says, as I am informed, that he would permit English
people, with Dispatches to come in Country Boats to Suez from
Jedda. Here is a Contradiction which convinces me that
he and the Boys are more apprehensive, That their Trade
should suffer from our Force, than that their Holy Land
should be defiled by our Feet. I have taken the liberty to
write to Captain Hutchett to request that he will go down
the Red Sea as soon as possible, and leave the Ketch at Jedda
to receive Dispatches & should any come they shall be forwar-
ded to her. I have ventured to promise that this requisition
will be complied with and Signor Rosetti has done the same,
otherwise we should be kept Prisoners at Cairo till Intelligence
arrives that the Coventry has left the Red Sea. These People are
such a Compound of Obstinacy and Ignorance that it appears
to me absolutely necessary towards gaining the intended
Object, to give up points to them, the more especially at
this Crisis, when as you may see, by the Most Papers
which go in the Coventry, it is very probable that a Rupture

with

Firmaun.

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with the Dutch may render speedy Advices from England of the greatest consequence.

We have intelligence that the Plague rages at Smyrna, but they say it has not as yet reached Constantinople.

As you, Sir, were pleased to permit me to draw on you on the Company's Account for Five hundred Pagodas in case of necessity, I have taken the liberty of giving a Bill for that Sum in favor of Mr Richard Hughes of this Place, as likewise for One hundred & eighty Pagodas in favor of Mr Solmon Shaw, that Sum of Pag$ 180, being 3 months Pay for the Gunpowder, and his Expences in going to the Ship, Enclosed is his Receipt.

I have the honor to be with great respect

Sir

Your most obedient Humble Servant

James Wooley

Cairo
22 June 1781

780

Sir

I have herewith the honor to acquaint you that I have received all the Dispatches and Letters from Mr Wooley, and shall proceed to England with them with the utmost expedition. Mr Wooley having written you fully respecting our Journey, I have only to add that I am with the greatest respect.

Sir

Your most obedient humble Servant

W. Shepherd

From Mr. Shepherd, receive dispatches from Mr. Wooley – will proceed to England by the first opportunity —

P.S. Since I. W. There arrived here last night Accounts from Alexandria that three English Gentlemen (whose names

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[illegible] we cannot learn, arrived three days ago in a small Pilot from Leghorn. Two of them came on shore, but on hearing of my situation returned on board Ship, and vaided it is supposed for Alepso. They were bound to India, but we cannot hear whether they had Dispatches or not. We set out for Alexandria this Evening, not having had permission before

By three Months Pay at Cairo for the Armenian Seignor as Interpreter _____ 150 ~

To Hire for two Mules to carry him to the Country at Cairo 30 ~
Mar P° 180 ~

Received from James Atkey Esq.r the above One hundred and Eighty Pagodas. 21st June 1780 ~
4 P S 8 ~ 2 P ~ 1 Rup 3 ~ p 9

6 X

Translation of a Phirmaun from the Grand Signior.

Signior

The Sultan absolutely forbids that any Franks Ships be permitted under any pretence whatsoever or to be concerned in any trade from Jedda to Suez to come to Suez openly or secretly. This is decisive.

The Suez Sea is reserved for the Whole Pilgrimage of Mecca, and all such as are content to admit Franks Ships to a Passage and do not exert themselves in preventing it are guilty of Infidelity to their Religion, to their Sovereign, and to all Mahometans, such as do not attend to this express Command so important to our State and Religion, will most certainly meet with severe Punishment in this World and in the World to come. Do forever with that zeal and Ardour as we command. Our Royal Orders are gone forth and this is our Will.

To the Honorable, Sublime, and Authorized Counsellor that rules the whole World, that

Greets

directs all Affairs with the greatest Wisdom, with the greatest Integrity, and the deepest Foresight, ordained by the Sovereign Voice, the Support of the Empire and the Ship, surrounded by the Royal Fence. To our noble Veller Mamed Basha whose high Splendor may God continue.

To the Judge of Judges of the Mussulmen & Commander of Commanders, Spirit of the Religion which elevates the Justice of the Law, Heir to the Wisdom of the Prophets and the Apostles, engaged in the execution of the Sovereign Commands, the present Judge of Cairo, may his Honors and Wants encrease.

To the Chiefs Commanders supplicated by the Great, mighty and Esteemed, engaged in the Execution of the Sovereign Commands, Chiefs of the Cavalry and Commanders of Egypt. That God may perpetuate their happiness.

To the Chief of the Glorious and Father favored of all, the most esteemed and noble Capiegy of our Port, and our Director Superintendant and Envoy from our most high Port, Mustapha Bahey. May his Glory perpetuate.

To the most esteemed and eminently wise Saddat or Sadie or Beehny.

To the Supporters of the four Religions and the Wise of Abyar. That their Wentue may be encreased.

To the Superiors of their Ocots, Officers of Command & Orders, the seven Ojacks in Cairo. That their Weight may encrease.

This Light

 Fort St. George April 1781

and noble Command arriving with you will proclaim
that Suez where Ships anchor is the Port of two Holy Cities
which preserve resplendant the Law of the Prophet, Viz
established for spreading that Justice which elevates
the Illuminated Mecca and Medina the Honored.
That God may preserve them Noble until the end of the
World.

All that has been already said is founded
upon what I am going to say. It never was the Custom
that Ships of foreign Nations should navigate in the
said Sea. The Regulation from India was that the
English Ships and others should not pass Jedda with
their Cargoes. Lately in the reign of Aly Bey who was
murdered afterwards, there arrived a small English
Vessel from Abissinia at Suez with Presents to him from
Persons unknown, telling him they came to look for Freights
and this having been permitted, the English thought that
they might at any time, and in future Ages come again.
Therefore they soon came from India in Ships loaded with
Piece Goods and other Merchandize, and Mahomet Bey
that Father of Evil (misled by his own Avarice and by
Men who made it appear to him, that under the title of
Customs there might be great Advantages gained) permitted
Ships belonging to the English and other Nations to come
successively to the Port of Suez. Such Presence of this marked
our Royal Ears, and these things contrary to Royal
Policies and to our Religion, came to our knowledge.
We therefore absolutely command that after this day they
shall

I shall not approach Suez, for we will not on any account admit of it, and we order that they do return to their Countries. We have recommended repeatedly this Affair to the English Ambassador at Constantinople, ordering him to write to his Sovereign to prevent Ships from coming to Suez; it being contrary to Custom and to the Laws Wise, and the said Ambassador shewed the Answers which he received from his Court and from the Turkey Company, which Answers set forth that Private Merchants were strictly forbid to approach Suez after the first day of the Fifth Year which commences the first day of December, and should any disobey this Order their Effects might be seized, their Persons enslaved, their Ships seized, and their Crews imprisoned, and Notice be sent us to our Sole Porte. We have made enquiry of those to whom nothing is unknown, there were Persons who study History, and it appears to them from the example of past Ages, that this Trade Nations in secret Policy subject themselves to all manner of Intrigues, and travel by Sea and Land taking Draughts of Countries and of Sea Coasts, reserving them till they have an Opportunity of invading and taking the Kingdoms, as they have done in India and other Parts. Memorials have come before us from his Highness Sooran Sheriff of the present exalted Mecca, setting forth that the Franks are not content with having the India Trade, but that they have taken in Coffee and other Goods at Jamaun and carried them to Suez which has very much hindered Trade. The Anger of His Highness was kindled, and he re-flected on the Proceedings of the Dutch heretofore in India.

Fifth

Jamaun.

reflected

They suffered great Fatigues and more long Voyages declaring themselves to be Merchants, and alledging that they would never be guilty of Treachery or Mischief, sending Persons before them to vet for the their Wisdom and Uprightness. The Indians were like Beasts and saw not their Cunning till they got possession of their Countries, such as Amadabads Bengal, Belnas, Surat and Madras, and the Franks got the Command of those People, and took the Cities of India by their Knavery and underhand Dealings in the beginning of the 600 in the time of Fatimon. And like manner they entered the City of Damascus under the appearance of Merchants, who were to be guilty of no Mischief or Treachery, paying all just Duties, but there happening at this time some Animosities between Fatimon & the Abbassins. The Franks politically took advantage of them and seized Damascus and Jerusalem, which remained in their hands for a course of a hundred Years, and in the beginning of the 600 Year there appeared Joseph Saladin (whom may God have received in his Glory) and the Curds and the Tabaury who freed Damascus and Jerusalem at the expence of a thousand Misfortunes and a thousand Battles, having lost Men beyond number. This History does not serve for us. Besides this, it is not unknown to the illuminated Memory, that Enmity is in the hearts of the Christians against the Turks, and that they see with an evil Eye Jerusalem in the hands of the Turks. God wants that such as convert Bad into Good, and are content to permit the Franks to come to Us, may be punished and destroyed in this World and in the next, and be chastised by the Almighty for

made

cities

God

ever. And you are to be on your guard against India
to the end of time, and suffer not the Franks ent their Ships
to go or come, and whosoever helps them underhand let
him receive Chastisement such as never did happen, no
ever will again. To the Right Sovereign there wants
no Forces. We have sent for the thes our Royal Com-
-mand, which can do all this and more, and you can-
-not in any manner justify Yourselves should you not obey
it. And particularly the English Ships and other Franks
Ships, when they come to the Port of Suez, you are to seize
and imprison their Captains, because it is declared that
they are Pirates and Rebels by the Declaration of their
Ambassador and the Answers of their Court, and that they
are Rebels to the two Courts and deserve Imprisonment and
Confiscation of their Effects. Give notice of this to the
Sublime Porte, and we shall there know what to do,
and you are to seize their Ships and Effects and no
one is to interfere in any respect in releasing them. Now
that as Vizir know the pleasure of the Sublime Porte,
and the nature of these Intrigues You are a great and
wise People and Sparks, and are well enlightened, and we
recommend this Affair to you again with the greatest Force
once for all, & strictly lay our Commands on you in this Business
so dangerous to our Religion and Kingdom. Without the last
Mistake do all what we have pronounced and be fearful
of any Voice, otherwise by God I swear that every thing that
can annoy you will arrive, and we shall inflict on you the
greatest Torments, and we again repeat all we have said
to the Wise who know the Books and the Mahometan
Religion

Fort St. George April 1781

& Religion; and if your Counsels are not adverse our
Sublime Porte of all that may happen — And Health &c.

To The Honble Sir Thomas Rumbold Bart.
Governor of Fort St. George

Honble Sir

From St. Helena with intelligence of the French.

Having thought it necessary to send the Hind Cutter stationed at this Island to the Cape of Good Hope for Intelligence, We conceive it of the highest importance to the Honble Company's Interest to communicate to you the following particulars, received from thence on her return to this Island the 6th Instant. That from the 29th May to the 6th June, arrived at the Cape from Port L'Orient (which place they left the 15th Feby) Le Bizarre, and L'Ajax of 64 Guns each, L'Elephant of 36 Guns and L'Argus of 18 Guns, and four Sail of Transports, having on board six hundred regular Troops, bound to the French Islands. That the above were part of a Fleet of six Sail of King's Ships and fifteen Transports, with Eleven hundred Regulars on board, destined for Mauritius, that fell in with an English Fleet, and were separated, and were in daily expectation of the Arrival of the Remainder, consisting of Le Brothé of 64 and Le Chavmont of 36 Guns, with the other Transports with Troops and Provisions: Thus far our Intelligence from the Cape. From Europe we are informed that the Fleet under Sir George Rodney, fell in with the above and took the Brothé and Le Chavmont and some of the Transports.

Argus.

remain-
consisting

That

was

That it was rumoured at the Cape, this Reinforcement was to join the French Fleet at Mauritius, and supposed their Design was against some of the Honble Company's Settlements in India.

Captain Harvey of the Betsey Snow, that has been cruizing off Cape Lagullas for some Months past, has informed us by Letter, that the above Intelligence he communicated to you (agreable to his Orders from us) by two Danish Ships that sailed from the Cape the 12th & 15th of June for Trangueba, but lest his Letters should not be received, we have availed Ourselves of the Dispatch of the Royal Charlotte to Bombay to inform you of the same.

We have the honor to be

Honble Sir

Your most obedient humble Servants

John Shottowe

Danl Caneille

St Helena
9th August 1781

To The Honble Sir Thomas Rumbold Bart
President & Governor &c.a
Fort St George

Sir

Lieut Wolley arrives at Constantinople — enclosed a Copy of this Memorial to the British Ambassador

In my Letter of 22d June last, I had the honor of informing you of what had befallen me from my departure from Madras to that time. I shall now take the liberty of mentioning, in a few Words what has happened since. I was sent Prisoner from Cuddalore to

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I Alexandria where I was, on the parole of Mr Brandie, allowed to walk about, till my Packet was ready to sail. Mr Shipley sailed the 8th July, for Leghorn, with the Letters, and I the 16th for Constantinople. I arrived here the 26th Instant & was immediately taken out of the hands of the Turks, and very politely treated by our Ambassador Sir Robert Ainslie, to whom I had the honor of being known. I immediately delivered him the Memorial, of which the enclosed is a Copy. His Excellency has long seen the absolute necessity of leaving the Passage thro Egypt open to the English Dispatches, but notwithstanding the warmest Applications he has not been able to obtain the Consent of the Porte to any Move that would be convenient. The Sheriff of Mecca has influence to support the Order for preventing Christian Vessels coming higher than Jedda, and he will ever make it a principal Object, as he complains that the Goods that were accustomed to be formerly landed there and to pay a Duty of 10 p Cent, have been of late landed at Suez, by which he has been defrauded of his Duty, and his Revenues so much injured that he cannot support the expence of Mecca. He has ever demanded that the Porte should pay him or oblige the Bey to pay him five p Cent on such Goods as have been already landed at Suez. The Ambassador applied for Permission for a Packet Boat to Suez, but the Porte will not consent to it. They will only permit Dervises with Letters to pass in Country Boats from Jedda to Suez, and from Suez to Jedda.

You will see Sir by my

Memorial

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I Memorial to the Ambassador, the great Advantage I think This Passage would be of, and as I humbly suppose you will see it in the same light at this critical time, could I presume to give my Opinion, it should be that a Vessel be sent from Sindeah to arrive at Sedda exact Diligence and to wait there for Dispatches. If it should be necessary to send a Packet from England to arrive there about that time, I think it might be conveyed almost to a certainty from Cairo to Sedda, and without much loss of time. There should be a Duplicate given to the Person who is to come to Cairo, which he should dispatch by a trusty Arab thro the Mountains to Cosire. The Arab to cross from thence to Yambo or to Sedda. The Courier himself should sail in a Country Boat, the Voyage to Sedda from Suez. I think it scarcely possible that both should fail, and I will take the liberty of advertising so to the Directors.

I intend setting out tomorrow for Vienna by the way of Venice, where I must wait 21 days of Quarantine, but as Mr Shipley must have left Leghorn, I may probably arrive in London before him. The Plague has got more than usual amongst the Christians, tho not remarkably violent amongst the Turks. I have the honor to be,

Sir

Your most obedient humble Servant

James Wooley

Constantinople

31st August 1781

Sir

837 Fort St. George April 1784

(Copy)

Sir

The ingenious treatment that I have labored under for some Months in the Territories of the Porte, obliges me to have recourse to your Excellency's protection, humbly hoping for such interference from your Excellency, as will (if not obtain me relief) prevent on future similar Outrages being committed, on the Persons & Properties of Subjects of Great Britain.

labour

On the latter end of last February, I sailed from India in his Majesty's Ships Coventry, in company with a Ships of War belonging to the English East India Company. These Ships were to proceed with me to the Red Sea, as I had the honor of being charged with Dispatches for England, for his Majesty and his Ministers from his Highness the Nabob of Arcot, the Admiral Sir Edward Hughes, and the Commander in Chief Sir Eyre Coote, as well as with Dispatches for the India Company from Sir Thomas Rumbold Governor of Madras. I had also Letters from the Nabob the Admiral and the Governor, for the Sheriff of Mecca and the Bashaw, and Ibrahim Bey at Cairo, requesting them to permit me to pass with the Dispatches.

After much delay occasioned by contrary Winds, and a dangerous Navigation, the Ships arrived on the 22d. May at Cosire on the Coast of Egypt. The Governor received us with every profession of friendship, and agreed to provide three other Gentlemen and me with Guards and Camels for passing the Desart to Kenna, a town situated

on

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Sein

on the East Banks of the Nile. Hakeem Bey who sayans there, sent an Officer to meet us on the road, and on his name to offer us many Civilities; but we were no sooner at Kenna, than he plundered us of Two thousand, five hundred Spanish Dollars, the Money we had for bearing our Expences to England. Tho we had previously sent home several Presents. He soon after put us into a small Boat, and sent us Prisoners to Cairo, which is near five hundred Miles from Kenna. On our arrival there Ibrahim Bey courteously received us and the Letters and set us at liberty. The next day the 15th June I waited on Ismael Bashaw with the Letter I had brought for him, when after abusing me in the most violent and indecent terms, He ordered me to be imprisoned in the Castle. At first I expected death every moment or some disgraceful Punishment, but the Bashaw changing, as I apprehend, that he had treated me with unjustifiable rigour, was pleased to discharge me from close Confinement, but ordered me to be brought Prisoner hither, to receive as he said the Punishment I had merited, in disobeying the Orders of the Grand Signor, by voyaging on the Red Sea.

I have the honor to represent to your Excellency that in addition to the Grievances already mentioned, I have been subjected to many considerable Expences, having been obliged to pay Sums of Money to the Officers in whose Custody I have travelled, and to many others who have rendered me Services. Your Excellency will I am sure, easily orders this Application, as you are so well acquainted

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rvices.

sily

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I acquainted with the manner in which Business is transacted thro' the whole Ottoman Empire; but be assured, Sir, that my chief motive to this address (as I cannot hope for restitution from this Government) after requesting that your Excellency will obtain me permission to proceed to England, is humbly to represent to your particular attention; That it is a matter of the greatest importance to the English Nation, and to the East India Comp.y, that the Passage for Dispatches to and from India, through Egypt, should be open, as in the present critical state of Affairs in Europe, speedy Intelligence cannot be too dearly purchased, and it may be conveyed by the Red Sea in two thirds of the time that should be reasonably allowed for its Arrival either by the Cape of Good Hope, or the Gulphs of Persia. I have heard in Egypt that your Excellency had exerted yourself very much in settling this desirable point, but tho' the Porte should grant it, it can never be assured unless an Agent be appointed at Cairo, and another at Alexandria, besides the reigning Bey at Cairo will expect some Present. However every Expence that could possibly be incurred in many Years, might be overbalanced by the speedy Conveyance of a single Letter. The fall of Pondechery is a recent Proof of this. I, once more, beg to recommend myself to your Excellency's Protection, and have the honor to be with the greatest respect

Sir

Your Excellency's most dutyful and most obedient Servant.

(signed) James Wooley

Constantinople
26th August 1781

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To The Honble. Charles Smith Esqr.

President & Governor &c.a &c. Select Committee

at Fort St. George

Gentlemen

We have received your Letters of the 15th

From Bombay, congratulating Mr. Smith on his succession to the Government — advising of Genl. Goddard's Success against the Mahrattas — of the Captures of the Dutch and French Indies Fleet — forwarding two Packets for the Portuguese, and a letter from Genl. Goddard —

15th, 22d, 25th & 29th October and 15 November.

We beg leave to congratulate Mr. Smith on his Accession to the Government, and heartily wish Success to his Administration in these most critical times.

We also congratulate you on the safe Succour you have received from Bengal, under the conduct of General Cote, and trust soon to hear that Affairs on your Coast are restored to a respectable footing.

We are very earnest in our Wishes for a Peace with the Mahrattas, and we know and shall exert our most strenuous Efforts to accomplish that desirable End. We are however convinced that nothing but the most vigorous measures can bring the War to a period, and hope the Success of General Goddard's Operations will soon procure the Justice of that conclusion. After reducing the important Fortress of Bassein & Arnaul, he proceeded with Success against a large Body of the Enemy in the Konkan or Country between the Ghauts and the Sea, and after obliging them to abandon that Country, forced the Passages and gained Possession of the Ghauts, where he is now encamped.

We have only to hope that this Success which has given us the Command of the Passes leading to their Capital, and vigorous Preparations, for further

tresses

asses.

measures

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I Measures may incline the Mahrattas to an Accommoda-
tion, but hitherto we have received neither the Ratification
or Requisition which was to indicate an Acceptance of the
Proposals, nor any other Overture.

As every information relative to the
Mahratta War, must be interesting to you, we inclose a
Copy of a Letter from General Goddard, dispatched immedi-
ately on his getting possession of the Ghauts, and stating his
Sentiments on the present situation of affairs.

We are much concerned to acquaint you
that by Advices from England, dated the 31st August we
are informed of the Capture of the Sultan, Godfrey Royal
George, Hillsborough, and Mountstewart Indiamen, and
a Fleet of 57 Sail of West Indiamen Outward bound,
by the combined Fleets of France and Spain within
a day's Sail of the Island of Madeira. We also learn
that the Squadron commanded by Mr Kempy had landed
6000 Men at Rhode Island, under the Command of
the Count de Rochambault, for the Assistance of the
Americans.

If Peace is not speedily concluded with the
Mahrattas, we shall be under an absolute necessity of
withdrawing the Settlement of Tellicherry, or if it should be
maintained we shall provide a Garrison from this Esta-
blishment, in either of which cases, the Detachement
under Major Colgrave will soon be returned to your Coast.

We are much obliged by your com-
pliance with our request for a Supply of Gun Powder.

The several Packets for the Company

which

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I which you recommended to our Care, were delivered to Mr
Petrie who took Passage for Europe on a Portuguese Ship.

I have

Gentlemen

Your most obedient humble Servants
Wm Hornby
D. Draper
N. Stackhouse

Bombay Castle
15 January 1781

P.S. We have the pleasure to enclose two Packets for the
Honble the President one of which was received from Bengal
and the other by Royal Charlotte.

To the Honble William Hornby Esqr.
President & Governor &c. &c. Select Committee
Bombay

Gentlemen

Since my last from Dawrout nothing
material has occurred to communicate to you, but this
morning which puts it in my power to congratulate you
upon the Troops under my Command having stormed and
taken Possession of Bhore Ghaut. After the ineffectual Attempt
made on the 5th Instant which my last Letter particularly
described to you, the Enemy thought proper to desist from
the mode of Opposition they had hitherto adopted and a
Body of about 5 or 6000 Horse under the Command of
Bazee Punt Annah, was detached to harrass our Rear and
endeavour to pick up any of the straggling Bazar Baggage
or Bullocks that might Loiter behind out of the defence of our
Line. Here however they were equally unsuccessful, nothing
of

Nothing of any consequence, and indeed scarce any thing falling into their hands; besides that many of them suffered from our Artillery whenever they ventured to come within reach of them.

Yesterday Morning the Army reached Caunpoley, which is at the foot of the Ghauts, and finding upon my arrival that the Enemy had posted themselves on it, where they had also brought a number of Guns, and a large Body of Infantry consisting by the report of my Spies of near 6000 Men, I resolved upon attacking it that very night, before they could collect a more numerous Force for its Defence, or improve the Works which I could plainly perceive they were constructing. As I had received Intelligence that Holkar with his Army consisting of 15,000 Horse besides Pindarees and another principal Sirdar with 7000 Horse had arrived upon the Top of the Ghauts, I thought it expedient to order a strong Party upon this Service which consisted of the Pioneer Corps in front followed by two Companies of Bombay and Madras European Grenadiers four Companies of Bengal Sepoy Grenadiers, the 1st & 7th Battalion of Bengal Sepoys and the 9th Battalion of Madras Sepoys. Two light three Pounder Pieces of the Bombay Artillery carried by Lascars preceded the European Grenadiers and two light six Pounder Pieces marched in the rear of the 7th & 7th Battalion of Bengal and in front of the 9th Battalion of Madras Sepoys.

The whole Party were ready to march off and the Van entered the Bottom of Pass at

Midnight

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1. Midnight. In little more than an hour they reached the first Post about halfway up the Pass, which the Enemy after discharging their Pieces immediately abandoned. The Troops then pushed forward toward the Dewajah or second Post which is deemed the strongest part of the Pass and where the Enemy had thrown up a Breast Work, from the left of which as our people advanced they fired some Guns and threw a considerable number of Rockets, which however as our people were under Cover did no mischief whatever, and in the mean time the Corps of Pioneers with two Companies of Bengal Grenadier Sepoys having taken possession of some heights on the right of the Road moved upon them to the Dewajah which the Enemy instantly relinquished, but not without carrying off their Guns, which after a few Discharges they had removed to a hill in front of the Dewajah, and they continued firing upon us as the Troops formed. Our small Field Pieces were by this time mounted on the Eminence and fired upon the Enemy who soon fled on all sides. The Troops having got through the Dewajah and formed, then moved forward to a Pagoda which is considered as the Summit of the Ghaut and from thence to Condala, where they are at present strongly encamped upon the Ground before occupied by the Enemy who abandoned it on their Approach, and from the appearance of their Camp, as well as the number of Bazar people we saw seen moving off, I have reason to suppose the Bazar himself must have been there, as the situation of the Ground corresponds with the Accounts given yesterday by the Peons

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I know further Intelligence has yet been brought in.

I cannot but congratulate you most sincerely upon the singular good fortune that has attended this Enterprize which has been atchieved without the loss of one Man killed or Wounded, and this I must attribute in a great manner to the cool and steady Conduct of Colonel Baillie who commanded the Manning Party and of the Officers and Troops under him and also to the clear and exact information I received from a Plan of the Road furnished me by Captain James Jackson which enabled me to form the previous Plan of Attack in a manner that would expose the Troops to the least possible danger. I must also beg leave to mention with particular satisfaction the behaviour of Lieut Charles Brown my Aid de Camp, and Lieut Christie and Richardson who accompanied the Party of the Guards and by their Activity and former knowledge of the Situation of the Ground greatly assisted in the Success of the several parts of the Attack. A few only of the Enemy's Slain were immediately found, but I have not yet been able to ascertain exactly their Number.

Having thus far successfully prosecuted the Plan mutually agreed to for carrying on the War with Vigor, and drawing the Enemy out of the Carnatic, it now remains to determine the Measures most proper to be pursued the remainder of the Campaign in order to bring the War to an honorable Conclusion, and effect as far as lies in our power the Wishes of the Governor General and Council on that head, It is necessary here to premise that -

Notwithstanding

Fort St George March 1791

I am well the landing the expectations they have given no Creature has yet been made sure of by the Bonah Government, and I am myself at present incapable of making any serious Terms on my part from a Conviction not only of the Uncertainty of such an Act, but of the ill consequences that might attend it, since I have it not in my power to prescribe any Terms of Pacification whatever, and the Minister knowing the Conditions on which he can put an immediate end to the War if he please, should any Proposals be further made him by me, which could be considered into an Anxiety for Peace, would be encouraged to persist in Hostilities and rather increase than relax in his Demands and Expectations of advantage. These being my Sentiments with respect to my present Idea of Negociation, I shall proceed to explain my opinion on the most eligible Plan for prosecuting the War.

The Security of the Carnatic and the requisite Assertion of the Superiority of Our Arms made it absolutely necessary to take possession of the Ghauts which command it, and which at the same time open to us a Passage into the Decan and their Capital at Bonah, at any time that we may find it expedient to march thither. The Apprehension of this while it deters them from detaching any considerable Force into the Carnatic which might leave their Capital exposed, will perhaps be the most tenable means of inclining them to the terms necessary to Peace. I am therefore of opinion that our first object ought to be, to establish a strong Post upon that Coast which from its situation, as well as vicinity to Bonah is the most

it

most convenient for the purpose, and which if necessary may be defended by one Battalion of Sepoys against any Force whatever. The possession of this too, should the Combaum hereafter remain in our hands will be most useful as it will prove no less a Check upon the Mahrattas than a Barrier to our own Territories. The next point we ought to have in view is to collect a Magazine of Stores and Provisions at this Place sufficient to supply the Army with enough of the latter for six Months, should it be deemed expedient to march forward to Bonah, as that quantity would at least be requisite on such an Occasion. With respect to this measure, I must confess I do not at present see any sufficient or adequate Object to authorize it, as I do not think it would be more conducive to the Attainment of a Peace than the mode I have before suggested. At any rate I am under the necessity of remaining here till I can receive a Supply of Provisions which, as the nearest and most convenient Place, I propose furnishing myself with from Bellapore, and have accordingly given directions to the Commissaries of the Army to lay in their Stock at that place. Permit me therefore to request most earnestly as a Point most essential to the Good of the Service, and even necessary to the safety and existence of the Army that you will give every encouragement to the Conveyance of Provisions to that Place, and in other respects give such Assistance to the Provision of Grain for the use of the Army as you may find most expedient, and the nature of the Service absolutely requires. I shall conclude this Letter by entreating to be favored with your Sentiments on the several subjects it contains, on which I have fully believe

quantity

as Bellapore

I my opinion, and shall impatiently wait to receive yours for my Advice and further Guidance

I have the honor to be

Gentlemen

Camp, Bhore Ghaut
9th February 1781

Your most obedient Servant
Thomas Goddard

A true Copy
Jas Hatley
Dep. Sec.

To The Honble Charles Smith Esqr
President & Governor &c. &c. Select Committee
at
Fort St. George

Gentlemen

Since closing our Letter of the 15th Instant we have received a Letter from General Goddard, advising that on the 12th a Person arrived from the Enemy's Camp, with a Letter from Byroo Pundit, said to be a Man of consideration in the Poonah Durbar, expressing the earnest desire of the Minister to conclude a Peace, and that he had sent this Person, Ramsa Senoy, to converse on certain points, to which if the General's Answer proved favorable, he would immediately send an Ambassador with full powers from the Court, to conclude a Treaty.

Extract from Bombay Genl Cons and receives a Letter from Byroo Pundit, with overtures for peace — enclosing Extract of his Letter

We think it proper to transmit an Extract of the General's Letter, containing a Relation of what has passed between him, and Ramsa Senoy, on which we cannot yet forbear to form any Judgment.

We have the honor to be

Gentlemen

Your most obedient humble Servants
Wm Hornby
D. Draper
N Blackhouse

Bombay Castle
20th February 1781

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1. Extract of a Letter from General Goddard dated the 13th February 1781.

Gentlemen

I beg leave to make you acquainted with a Circumstance that has just occured, which tho' of a most important nature, and on a subject at present the most interesting to us of all others, I find it impossible to form any Judgment of what may be the probable result, or how far it may be considered as favorable to our Views. I shall however proceed without further Preface to make you acquainted with the Particulars.

Yesterday the 12th Instant a Man arrived from the Enemy's Camp, sent as he previously intimated to me from the Mahratta Ministry. His name is Runsoor Sing, and I understand that he was many years ago employed by the Poonah Government to transact their Affairs with the Presidency of Bombay, where he resided a long time in the character of their Vakeel. Upon admitting him to a Conference, I found that the Letter he had brought was not from Nana Furnese himself, but from Byroo Pandit, a Person who Runsoor informed me, and indeed I had heard myself from other Authorities, was a good deal in the Ministers Confidence. I expressed my Surprize that he should have neglected to provide himself with this Credential of his being really employed by Nana, without which I told him it was thought improper for me to enter into any Conversation with him. He made many Apologies for the

Neglect

others
certain
Runsoor

I Neglect, principally founded upon the doubts this Minister pretended to entertain of the friendly Disposition of the English towards him, and added such strong verbal Assurances of the sincere intentions of the latter, that tho not convinced by his Arguments, I thought it most expedient for the public Good to acquiesce in his Proposal of being heard at this time, and gave this Proof of my readiness to concur in any proper measures for terminating the difference now subsisting, rather than be too nice a regard to ceremonious Forms, throw any Obstacle in the way of a Reconciliation that was so much the Object of our Desire and Interest.

The Letter from Bynoo Punt was in general Terms, acquainting me with the earnest desire of the Maratta to conclude a Peace, and his having dispatched Runnoor Sing to converse with me upon certain points, to which if my Answer proved favorable, he would immediately send an Ambassador to me with full Powers from the Peishwa to conclude a Treaty.

Runnoor began by declaring on the part of Bynoo, his sincere and friendly intentions towards the English, and his desire of immediately entering into an Alliance with them. He did not condescend upon any particular or specific Conditions for effecting this alliance, but offered to consider it as a point that might be attained without any Difficulty, if both Parties were but sincere in their desire of accomplishing it. On this head I thought it sufficient on my part to make the same general Assurances which

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1st which the Minister had communicated to me Thro' him and he seemed to be perfectly satisfied with them.

The other point and that on which he said the greatest Stress, related to Hyder Ally. Here he said the Minister found himself a good deal embarrassed. He had lately received Letters from Sir Eyre Coote, proposing to him to conclude a Peace with the English, and unite his Forces with theirs against Hyder. He affirmed on this head, That however willing he was to consider Hyder Ally as an Enemy to the Mahratta State, which he had always proved himself, and at this time was in Hostility of a Country belonging to the Circar, and yielding a Revenue of 60 Lacks of Rupees, it was impossible for the Minister to commence Hostilities immediately against him, on account of Engagements they had lately formed together. That he therefore proposed to write to Hyder acquainting him with the Arrival of the English Army at the Top of the Ghauts; that he had thought it expedient to enter into an Alliance of Friendship with them, in which he intended that Hyder also should be included, and the result of this Plan he added, would be, that as Hyder's Answer would furnish him with a sufficient Pretext for breaking with him, the united Armies of English and Mahrattas should take the Field immediately after the Rains, and march into his Country. The reason he gave for delaying the Operations against Hyder till that Period was, That before an Answer could be received to the Letter, he

now

said

I now proposed unveiling the Season of Action would be nearly over, and the rains at hand, which must render it impossible for an Army to keep the Fields. He further added that even admitting it was in every other respect convenient for him to break with Hyder and enter upon Action immediately, the Season is too far already spent, to enable us to make any considerable Progress. Ramier concluded this Subject with declaring that it was not the intention of Nana to defer the conclusion of the Treaty between the English and the Mahratta State, which he wished should be executed immediately, and that what related to Hyder should remain secret in a separate private Treaty, between which if any doubts were entertained of the Peons sincerity, he offered to deliver up the English a Man of the first consequence as a Hostage in which case he would also expect The same.

Having maturely considered the important Objects to which this Proposal related to Hyder must lead, and the necessary Attention it deserved in the present State of our Affairs, I expressed in general Terms my Satisfaction with the Sentiments thus communicated to me by the Minister, and the mutual Advantages which must accrue from a Prosecution of the War he had laid down. At the same time I thought it prudent to avoid entering more particularly into the Subject, by pointing out any Mode of Attack, either with respect to Time or Place, or inducing by proposing any Conditions of mutual

Concert

Fort St. George April 1781

for Benefit as the Basis of the Conduct against Hyder. Then Both I conceived, could only be discussed with any Propriety, when a public Vakeel should arrive, when it appeared that any reasonable Dependence could be placed upon the Sincerity of the Mahratta Government, and when your Sentiments should be transmitted to me, on the important Subject now communicated, and your Instructions founded on them, be received for my future Guidance. The Man returned to the Enemy's Camp early this Morning and as the Minister is encamped beyond Tillagong the time necessary for going there & returning, together with that necessary for the Discussion and Preparation of the important Points to be afterwards adjusted, will occasion a delay of eight days, at the expiration of which he declared a public Vakeel would arrive in my Camp.

The time thus limited will cause no Inconvenience, or even delay in my Operations, as I hope that Interval will be usefully employed in procuring the necessary Supplies of Provisions from Pullapaur, and give you leisure to weigh fully the Subjects on which I have solicited your Sentiments, and which I shall wait for with the greatest impatience.

In the course of Conversation with Runsoor he gave me to understand, tho' it is a circumstance by no means probable, that the Proposals from Bengal had never been received by Nana, but that Moodajee Boosla, thro' whom they were sent, finding no satisfactory

Alla

5. Offer more relative to Ragoba have returned them. Supposing this to have been actually the case, the Copy of them Proposals will no doubt have been sent them by Broodagee, and as it appears they do not mean to produce the Originals, there is reason to suspect that either Broodagee must have been averse to, and designedly prevented, the Success of the proposed Compact against Hyder, or that the Mahrattas themselves have disapproved these Proposals, with a View of obtaining more favorable Conditions in a future Treaty with us, the this last Suggestion is it must confess very unlikely & improbable. Upon the whole, and indeed Their own Declarations confirm this opinion, the Variety of Channels thro' which Applications have been made to them whether it tends to perplex and confound, sets them Round with Distrust and Diffidence of the Powers united in any Individual with whom they may treat, and an Apprehension of the Invalidity of the Terms which may be concluded upon under such Circumstances.

A true Extract
Sal Hadley Sec.

To The Honble Charles Stuart Esqr
President & Select Committee
at Fort St George

From Bombay
in Copy of Letter,
from the Resident
at Poona with Intelligence

Gentlemen

Having received some very
interesting Intelligence from the Provisional Resident at Poo

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S. we think it highly necessary to transmit a Copy of his Letter for your Notice.

We have the honor to be

Gentlemen

Your most obedient humble Servants

Wm Hornby

D. Draper

N. Hackhouse

Bombay Castle

21st February 1781

To The Honble William Hornby Esqr

President & Governor &c. &c. Select Committee

of Fort St. George

Honble Sir & Sirs

Last Night a Portuguese Ship from Macao anchored here, who left China the 12 Dec. last, and arrived at Malacca in 46 days. I am informed by the Commander of this Vessel that his Britannic Majesty's Ship Seahorse had left China in November last, and had met with bad weather in her Passage to Malacca where she was forced to throw her Guns overboard. After her arrival at that Port her Commander died and that she afterwards proceeded on to Madras. After leaving Malacca on the 15th. January that Ship spoke with a French Fleet off the Car Nicobar Islands which consisted of Nine Ships; Three of the Line, Three Frigates, two Privateers and a Snow. That the Commander and several of the Officers

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1. Officers went on board where they saw several English Prisoners, and were offered for sale several kinds of Goods they had taken since their Arrival on that Station. Where they were bound for they could not learn, but they suppose to wait there for our Ships fleet and afterwards proceed to the Coast of Coromandel, but this last is only Conjecture.

I remain with the utmost respect

Honble Sir & Sirs

Your most obed^t & humble Servant

Charles Stewart

Goa
12th February 1791

a true Copy
Saml Calley Dep^y Sec^y

To Charles Smith Esqr
President &c^a Select Committee
of Fort St George

Comm^r Sir E. Hughes, burns a number of Dutch Ships &c. in Negapatam Roads, — arrives at Bombay, — uses every dispatch in refitting the Squadron ——

I had the pleasure to address you by Letter of the 1st Decr last from Tellicherry Road to answer to your Letters to me of the 21st, 25th & 29 October last, and on the 9th Decr I was favored with yours of the 15th November advising me of the safe Arrival of General Sir Eyre Coote at Madras.

In my Letter of the 1st December among other Matters I laid before you the State in which I found, and left the Company's Settlement of

Fort St. George April 1781

1st of Tellicherry and the Jamaica, and informed you of my intention to leave there the Company's two Ships the Bombay and Carnatic which you had put under my Orders, and that I intended to touch at Mangalore in my way up the Coast, to see if any thing effectual could be done against Hyder's Vessels at that Port. On the 6th December I left Tellicherry Road with the Squadron and two of the Company's Snows, and on the 8th in the morning we were off Mangalore where I perceived two Grab Ships, a large Grab Snow, three Ketch Grabs, and many Galavats with Hyder's Colours flying at Anchor close in Shore in the Road; I immediately stood in for them, and having at noon anchored the Line of Battle Ships in four Fathoms water, and ordered the Company's Cruizers to anchor as close in with the Shore as their Draught of Water would admit, I made the Signal for the Boats of the Squadron manned and armed to rendezvous under the Superb's Stern. At One P. M. they rowed towards the Enemy's Ships and Vessels, covered part of the way by the two armed Snows, and boarded them one after another with much Vacancy Spirit, under a severe fire from the Batteries on Shore as well as the Ships and Vessels they were attacking. Before 2 O Clock they had mastered the two Ships, and all the Ketches, one of which was purposely blown up by the Enemy at the very instant of time our Boats boarded her, with much loss of People to us. The Prisoners informed the Officer commanding the attack that the remaining Grab was also prepared by the Enemy

to

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S^ to be blown up in the same manner. At 5 P.M. finding it impracticable to get the Ships and other Vessels off as they were grounded, they were burnt.

One of the Ships carried 22, the other 26 Guns 9 Pounders; the Vessels 12 Guns each & 6 Pounders. During this Service the Squadron lost one Lieutenant and Ten Men killed; Two Lieutenants and fifty one Men wounded, many of whom have since died of their Wounds.

At this Place I saw several of Hyders Ships and Vessels within the Bar, but many reasons made it totally impracticable to destroy them without a very great Number of Troops to occupy and maintain a Post on Shore, to draw off the Attention of the numerous Garrison which were paraded on the Beach all around the Harbour, from our Boats.

Company's

On the 9th. I therefore ordered the Company two armed Sloops to return to their Station off Tellichery, and proceeded with the Squadron to this Port, where I arrived on the 20th., and have ever since been closely employed with the assistance of every Artificer on the Island, in repairing and refitting the Ships of which they stood in much need, most of them being nearly three Years off the Ground and very foul. The Worcester and Coventry have been employed to co-operate with a part of General Goddard's Army, against the Island and Fort of Onore, which has been taken.

At the Select Committee of this Presidency will without doubt write you fully on the subject of the

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1st The present state of their Affairs, as well as their Operations of the Army on this side, it is needless for me to enter on these subjects, and I have now only to add that, as all his Majesty's Ships named in the Margen will, I hope, be in a condition to proceed to Sea on or before the middle of April, I will give me the greatest pleasure to co-operate with this Presidency and General Goddard in every measure they can recommend to me for the Public Service, so long as the Season will permit the Squadron to remain on this Coast with Safety, and unless I have certain intelligence of a French Naval Force on your Coast, in which case I shall immediately push at the Enemy there; but if no such Force arrives on your Coast, and a Peace is happily concluded between us and the Mahrattas, I am of opinion that General Goddard's Army aided by His Majesty's Squadron under my Command might render signal Services against Hyder, and recover the Carnatic. *

Superb
Exeter
Worcester
Burford
Eagle
Coventry
Chaser
Combustion
Fireships

I am sorry that I have been so long deprived of the pleasure of hearing from you at this very critical and interesting time, but I apprehend your Letters to me must have been intercepted, and the usual road of Communication with this place by the way of Anjengo cut by the Enemy, I have therefore prevailed on this Presidency to return the Indus to you with these and my Letters, and remain with great regard.

Sir & Gentlemen

Your most obedient humble Servant

Edw.d Hughes

Superb in Bombay Harbour
23d February 1781

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To The Honble Charles Smith Esqr

President & Governor &c. &c. Select Committee

Fort St. George

Gentlemen

I had the honor to address you under date the 26th. Instant by the Snow Hastings an answer to yours of the 21st. I now despatch the Success Galley to bring me down a part of the Pattery remitted me from Bengal & regarding which I have instructed the Paymaster Mr Tierney to send directions. I shall be glad also to receive by her a further supply of Rice and Grain, as much as can be loaded on her without subjecting her to any great retardation as if I move to the Southward she is from her being the best Sailer the only Ship I can depend upon for reaching in any appointed time, such Station as I might in consequence find it necessary to order her to, with Provisions for the Army.

I enclose for your information Copies of Letters which I have received from Colonel Braithwaite at Tanjore & Lieut. Roberts at Tanjore.

By my Intelligence I learn that Hyder has detached 5000 of his worst Horse to the Southward 2000 of which I understand are to be stationed somewhere near to Pulicat & the remaining two Thousand as detached Parties at the Villages around Conjeveram in order to prevent Supplies getting into your Place, and likewise to destroy & lay waste the Countries around Chungleput & Carangoole. There is a Mahratta Proverb of what advantage he derives from having so large a Body

Transmits Sir E. Coote's desiring a supply of Grain — Hyder's Cavalry lay waste the Country, and prevents Supplies from coming in — encloses Letters from Col. Braithwaite, Major Clifton — Lieut. Roberts, and a representation from a number of Officers upon Capt. Lloyd's Promotion — with returns of Military Stores received from Tanjore —

Fort St. George April 1781

a Body of Cavalry & from which the aforesaid Detachment tho' being of the worst kind are equally as well as supporting his Influence & Authority in the Country as if a superior Body. Your honour and Measures which he daily & unhappily with so * devoted to his Interests & did he not possess as he does

these

* much facility and Confidence even at the People of the Country

besides the Capital, most all the strong Ports in the Country & which at the same time they keep there. Inhabitants under Subjection are of inestimable Utility in the Protection & Support which they afford all his Movements, and vice versa with respect to us which makes the War, which we are now prosecuting, not only a most difficult one, but totally different from any which has ever happened before in the Carnatic. When the Nabobs Affairs were in a much worse situation than at present & he had by Country which he could call his own, there were always some of the Polygars & Zemindars of the Country adhered to and assisted him, and used to act in conjunction with our Troops: so very different is the case at present that they are, I may say, every one against us, and of the few belonging to the Polygars contiguous to Madras who accompanied the Army there are not now above Forty remaining with it. I know not whether the small Body which I left at Cavaroopoly have behaved with more fidelity, as I have received no late Intelligence from that Quarter.

I enclose you a Letter addressed to me by Major Clifton, and which appearing to me to contain a request of a very just and reasonable nature, I beg to recommend it to your Consideration.

I likewise enclose you a Representation

delivered

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delivered to me by the Officers of the Army who from their Seniority to Captain Flint had a prior Right to be promoted, and who seem to feel themselves aggrieved. On my opinion I esteem what has been given him as nothing more than an adequate reward for the services he has rendered the Public, and what his Military Skill, Activity and Judgment in defence of Wandewash, justly entitled him to, and is such as mark of distinction as is common in all Military Services whether have known. However I have a very favorable opinion of the Officers in general whose names are annexed to the enclosed Representation, I beg leave to recommend, that as they respectively rise to the rank of Captain, they resume the ranks they have hitherto held above Captain Flint, agreable to their standing in the Service. I also recommend the same rule to be observed with respect to Lieut Moore, whose present Promotion in like manner affects all those Officers who have hitherto ranked over him by their Seniority in the Service.

I apprehend there must have been some Mistake committed in the dates of the Commissions to Captains Mackay, Bishop & Flint & Lieut Moore, as by being antedated so far back they are vacated to Supernumerary Officers who had risen to their respective Ranks even before my Recommendation for their Promotion was before your Committee. I beg therefore that you will order it to be enquired into, and that if any such Mistake has been committed, it may be rectified, as their Commissions should be dated from the time of your giving them.

I enclose two Returns of Military Stores received from Bengal, what were left behind, or have not yet

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Camp Newtown 31st March 1781

yet arrived Mr Gladstone is best able to inform you of his Expedition I have the honor to be Gentlemen Your most obedient Humble Servt

1st Enclosures in Sir Eyre Coote's Letter of 31 March 1781

To Sir Eyre Coote K.B. &c &c &c —

Sir

Since I sent my Orders to Capt Brown Endiganaum dated the 14th Inst in obedience to your I have received a Letter from him dated the 14th Inst He says that the Polygars are in Arms to the Amount of 28000 Skirmishes he has had, 90 Men killed and wounded. His new Battalion and the Maholis Peons have behaved well. The Cuddapah Forts are every day given up to the Polygars. Colonel Brown writes me that he is assembling Force at the Golden Rock. That they are clamorous for Pay, having had none last Month.

Lally with about 2000 Men has hoisted French Colours at Nagore and Carical. The Enemy have about 12,000 in this Country and mean to attack Pondalore. Volconda has been given up to Tippoo Saib, who is against Trichinopoly. No Money has yet been obtained from the Rajah. The Gentlemen deputed have good hopes. I understand that the Dutch and Danes have settled matters with Hyder, the former paying Pag 60,000 — The Gibendees and Cavalry are got at Contractors under Lieut Hampton.

I have the honor to be with great respect

Sir

Your most obedient Servant

Signed John Braithwaite

Tanjore
29th March 1781

To General Sir Eyre Coote

Sir

This Morning the Detachment of the Enemy that I before informed you of having taken Condachalum under their Appearance. By a Prisoner I am informed there are commanded by Tippo Saib, and consist of about 8 or 10,000 Foot 2000 Horse & 6 Guns. They are at present encamped at about 6 Miles from the Fort. On sending a Detachment of Horse to Cayenguer I hear they inclosed the Fort which I imagine has brought them to down this way. We have 3 or 4 months Provisions in the Fort which I hope is longer than we shall have their Company.

I have the honor to be

Sir

Your most obedient humble Servant

(Signed) George Roberts

Fuggar
20th March 1781

To His Excellency General Sir Eyre Coote K.B.
Commander in Chief of the Forces
&c &c &c

Sir

As your time under your Command I have had the honor of commanding the Artillery now send through the great Promotion of Bengal Officers that Captain Elliot who has served under me in Bengal, and at this present Juncture, will pass by at Major's Commission, I am a Right of commanding me, as alike also several Officers come

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I, with the Bengal Detachment whose standing through the Service is very superior. It therefore I flatter myself your Candour, Justice, and Feelings for the honor of an old Officer will not permit him to suffer so poignant an Injury and that you will be pleased to recommend the confirming me in Commission as Major from the date of my Brevet on the Manar Expedition the 16th December 1778 or to such Commission as the present Circumstances of the Service in a large Command of as respectable Corps may be by you deemed necessary. —

confirm

I have the honor to be

Sir

Your most obedient humble Servant

Ch.s Chisholm

Camp
28th March 1781

To Lieut. General Sir Eyre Coote &c —

The Officers whose names are subscribed beg leave to represent to His Excellency Sir Eyre Coote their sense of the Order yesterday made for the respective Promotion of Lieut. Flint to a Company in Succession to their superior Ranks.

Fully sensible of Mr. Flint's Merit, they would rejoice at every mark of distinction shewn him, which did not cast so injurious a reflection upon themselves. The best part of of their Lives has been spent in the Service, and they are conscious of having discharged the Duties of their Profession with a Zeal and Zeal inferior to none.

The Approbation which His Excellency was pleased to bestow upon the Appearance

best

and

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1st and Discipline of the Corps on their Arrival in India, and their behaviour upon all occasions since, they hope reflects some Honor upon their Officers, and they entreat that their Merits may not be overlooked to reward an Individual, who has been fortunate enough to be placed in a situation of distinguishing himself. Such an Injury would for ever damp their Zeal, but that they may at last have Commissions of equal Rank to Mr Stuart's given them without any additional Pay from the Company till Vacancies shall happen; and they believe Mr Stuart will esteem himself sufficiently honored in the publick Approbation of his Commander in Chief, to a Soldier the highest and most grateful distinction, and in having the Command of the second oldest Battalion of Sepoys. They flatter themselves that before the Conclusion of the War their General will find every Subscriber eager to merit all Opportunities of proving himself worthy of his Protection and proud of his Approbation, as the highest reward of his Service.

J. Baillie Lieut
Alx Dirom
Edwd Saunders
Wm Younge
John Monkhs
W Douglas
Henry Dunn
J. Montgomery
Ar. Crawfords

Camp
26th March 1781

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1 Stores received from Nagore. Cuddalore 29th March 1781

Round Shot fit to Cartridges & Pounders	303
Grape Shot fit to Cartridges & c.	64
Old Firelocks	244

Joseph Moorhouse
Com.y of Stores to the Army

2 Arms received from Nagore. Cuddalore 29th March 1781

Musquets with Spring Bayonets complete	128
Spare Spring Bayonets	11
Old Musquets repairable for Passing Duty	200
Musquets unserviceable	97
Spare old Bayonets	37

inspected by me
Joseph Moorhouse
Com.y of Stores to the Army

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1st

To The Honble Warren Hastings Esqr.
Governor General &c.a Council
of Fort William

Hon'ble Sir &c.s

We have had the honor to receive your Letters of the 2d & 12th Instant.

We have now enclosed Copies of Letters received from Mr Lord and Mrs Pelling and Dejoux, with Lists of Cargoes of Rice &c.a consigned to their Gentlemen by Mr Lewis de Costa. We have directed our Records to be searched, but no Transaction appears to be made of Mr Lewis de Costa. Should any thing be hereafter found, relative to this Gentleman, we shall not fail to transmitting the same to you.

The Chief and Council of Vizagapa-tam had our Orders to send all the Money they could spare to Masulipatam, judging on the appearance of the French Fleet on this Coast, that it would be safer there than at Vizagapatam.

We now dispatch to you the Ships Dartmouth & Rochford. They have been detained thus long in expectation that their Services might be wanted to the Southward

To Bengal enclosing Letters from Mr Lord, Mrs Pelling & Dejoux, the Dartmouth sent thither — the Lively Brig arrives from England — sent to Masulipatam for treasure — any Armament expected from England — nothing for Bengal with the Marattas — referring to Sir Eyre Coote's letter for the reason of the inactivity of the Army — of their distress for Grain — the Nabob's inability to supply them with money — of his refusing to give up the Rebels district — Mr Sulivan appt Resident at Tanjore — the Cadets and Invalids sent to Bengal —

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where indeed they would have been sent upon the earnest requisitions of Sir Eyre Coote, had not the various obstacles which as stated in the enclosed Copy of our Correspondence with the Captains induced us upon the whole to resolve on sending them immediately to Bengal.

The Lively Brig Captain Forrest is arrived from England with Packets for the several Presidencies, and we have the honor to send you by the Dartmouth, that which she brought for your Presidency.

Our Letters for Money has laid us under the necessity of sending this Vessel to Masulipatam, to bring as much as can be spared, reserving some for the use of Col Pearse's Detachment, and that she may not be in danger from French Privateers, of which we have had reports, tho' no certainty, she proceeds under the Convoy of the Indiaman, who are directed to remain at Masulipatam until she sails for the Presidency with the Treasure. Soon as she has performed this Service, it is our intention to dispatch her to You.

The Court of Directors have in their Letter to us by this Vessel, written fully on the subject of the Armament coming from England, and the purposes for which it is designed. We sincerely hope that such an alteration in the circumstances of our Affairs may take place, as will enable the several Presidencies to join effectually in the execution of the Plan which has been recommended, in the meantime we can only observe that we are heartily disposed to co-operate with you, upon such this

Basis of

870.

Fort St. George March. 1781

Business must principally rest, to the utmost of our power, but we are extremely apprehensive that nothing can be done, at least on our part, until the peace of the Carnatic be restored, and this being an Event which depends so entirely upon a speedy Accommodation with the Mahrattas, we cannot but express our most fervent hope that your Endeavours to that End will be successful.

Our Army has been for some time at Cuddalore, and we cannot explain the reasons which have induced the General to remain there, better than by enclosing you Extracts from his Letters on this subject. The Country has been so completely overrun & laid waste by the Enemy's Cavalry, that we do not wonder at the Difficulties which prevent the Movement of the Army. We have used every means in our power to obviate, but we fear that nothing will prove effectual until our affairs can enable us to create a powerful Diversion of the Enemy's Force.

Our Distress for want of Money is become truly alarming, and we earnestly entreat your Honor & C.ª will take Measures for supplying Us without loss of time. The Army is in arrear for the last Month, and our Troops in this Garrison are in the same state. The Money received from you, except a small Balance remaining with Sir Eyre Coote, has been all applied to the Disbursements of the Army, and we have added for the same purpose whatever Money of our own we could scrape together

Fort St. George April 1791

stand

together, in so much that every other Department is at a stand and the Civil Servants have received nothing for these last 7 Months. Under these Circumstances we have been absolutely compelled to draw a part of the Money which is in the Treasury at Madrapatam, for the immediate support of the Army, notwithstanding the resolution we had formed of sustaining it there for the Disbursements of Col. Pearse's Detachment, agreeably to the orders you had signified to us. We have still good Grain that no more be sent us than may be sufficient to supply our most pressing Wants, and we hope before Col. Pearse's Detachment arrives here, the Bullock will have the means of supplying its immediate Wants.

There is every appearance that we shall be in the greatest Distress for Grain, as all the usual Supplies from the Southward are cut off, and instead of receiving from thence, we are obliged to supply the Army and also the Settlement at Cuddalore, where a Famine has actually commenced. At a moderate Computation above 15000 Bags of Provision are consumed by the Army and Inhabitants of Cuddalore, and 6,000 at this Settlement, therefore we ought to have full 550,000 Bags of Grain for a Supply till September; but we are sorry to say that the quantity now in Store, including both the Company's Rice, and that in the possession of Individuals, does not exceed 125,000 Bags, according to the best information we can procure, and we cannot expect, at this late Season above 50,000 more, however fortunate the Vessels may be in arriving here. This unexaggerated State of our Situation needs no Comment, but will convince the necessity there is for our receiving Supplies

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I suppose from you, and therefore we hope no Consideration shall ever will induce you to permit the Resistance, Belmont, Rochford and Portsmouth, being employed on any other Service than in bringing Money and Grain to this Settlement. We most earnestly request they may be dispatched without delay. Captains Thomson and Tod having promised us a Public Letter to the Select Committee, to perform their part, if they have your Commission, and we have no doubt but Captains Scott and Farmage will shew an equal Zeal for this most important Service.

We fear that the want of the 600 Casks of Salt Provisions you contracted for to be delivered here in this Month, will be severely felt by the Army and this Garrison, as we have only 100 Casks now in Store.

altho' we have already on this and our former Letters so fully and urgently represented our Distress for Money, we must again renew the Subject by declaring that we cannot devise the Means of keeping our Military Establishment alone for 2 Months longer, even when the Balance remaining with General Sir Eyre Coote is included in the Account, and every probable receipt from the Northward and Southward. His Highness the Nabob is either totally incapable of affording us the least Aid, or else remains insensible to the strong & numerous representations we have made to him of our critical Situation. We have endeavored in vain to alarm him for his own Situation. If he be incapable of rendering any Assistance which we fear is the case (except the Rents of Districts which he has obstinately refused to deliver up to us, as before represented to you) further

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1 Remonstrances are vain, but of he really possesses Resources, we know not of any Means in our power unengaged, for obliging him to use them.

We have no Advices yet of what our Deputies have done at Tanjore, or the Receivers at Trichinopoly and Tinnevelly, but we have fullest hopes that the former will be able to procure any considerable Sum, as the Enemy has laid waste a great part of the Tanjore Country, or that the latter can receive more than will pay the Troops at Trichinopoly and Tinnevelly.

The Court of Directors have been pleased to appoint Mr Stephen Sullivan Resident & Paymaster at Tanjore. We enclose an Extract of such part of their Letter as relates to this Appointment, which we request you will communicate to Mr Sullivan, and desire him to repair hither to take Charge of his Employ.

The Invalids which came on the Duke of Portland and Shaw Allum, are now returned to you on the Dartmouth and Rochford, and on these Ships the Cadets for your Establishment also embark agreeably to the Lists enclosed. These Gentlemen during their Stay here, have been formed into a Company under an experienced Officer.

The Intelligence Snow returned from the Straits of Malacca a few days since. Her Commander informs us he learnt from a Captain of a Macao Ship, that the second division of Company's Ships consisting of 7 Sail were dispatched from China the

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the end of January, and as he heard nothing further of them, he concludes they had passed in safety thro' some of the other Straits, there being no report of French Cruizers in those Seas. We have armed this Snow for War, and dispatched her to Cuddalore, Sir Eyre Coote being greatly in want of such a Vessel to cruize against the Enemy's armed Boats.

We learn by Private Letters from the Cape dated the end of September, that the Company's Ships that sailed hence with the Fleet of War, the beginning of April, had put into Madagascar, where they were joined by five Ships from China, and that they found Ceres at the Cape, from whence they were to sail the 2d October.

We are

Honble Sir & Sirs

Your most obedient humble Servants

Fort St. George
1st April 1781

Charles Smith &c
Select Committee

To Mr James Daniell
Chief 2d in Council
at Masulipatam

To Masulipatam
Mr Daniell appointed
Chief — Batticks to
be provided for the
Bengal Detachment
onward

Gentlemen

We have received your Letters of the 29 January, 3d 27 Feby, 1, 9 & 21st Instant.

Mr Daniell, whom we have appointed

Chief

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commence at the unfortunate disposition among the Zemindars and the mutinous spirit among the Sepoys — the Lively Brig sent for France, the detachment from Cuddalore embarked on the Indiamen — to communicate to the Captains of the Indiamen every Article of the Enemy's Cruizers.

I, Chief of your Settlement, proceeds to his Station by this Conveyance and we trust much to his Abilities and Industry for those Exertions on behalf of the Company, which the present Situation of their Affairs, and the peculiar Circumstances of your District, indispensibly requires.

As the Bengal Detachment will now be very soon with you, we particularly desire you will use all possible diligence in collecting every Species of Provisions, not only for their Consumption during their Stay with you, but to enable them to carry the Rest on with a Stock sufficient for two months, as their Supplies, after they come on this side the river, will be extremely precarious. We desire likewise that you will procure Draught and Carriage Bullocks &c., &c. not only for the use of the Detachment, but for the Supply of Corn Away to the Southward, which is in the greatest want of them. The Nabob has sent Orders to his People in the Ongole, Nellore, & Paulconda Districts to furnish these Articles, but as we learn there is no Dependence to be placed on that Quarter, it will be necessary that you make your Preparations accordingly. The Zemindars should be obliged to contribute to the Supplies each in Proportion to his means, and the Amount of what they may furnish, carried to the Credit of their Accounts with the Company; and if you allow them a Price, something above the rates at which the several Articles usually sell, we doubt not

of your being amply supplied with every thing.

We are concerned to remark the appearance of a refractory Disposition among your principal Zemindars. We hope this may be attributed more to the Causes you mention, than to any real Disaffection towards Us; nevertheless we deem it expedient that you should avail yourselves of the present favorable Occasion of checking it as much as possible, and we trust the March of the Bengal Detachment will enable you to do this without putting you to the necessity of adopting severe Measures, which we wish on every account to avoid, and particularly as the Progress of the Detachment cannot be delayed a moment for any purpose of this kind; of which we now apprize you that you may regulate your Measures accordingly. The Name and Appearance of so superior a Force in your District must, we think, be attended with perfect Submission on the part of the Zemindars, and give you the means of accomplishing every point you can desire; — Much, however, will depend upon your Management, and Address, and We trust principally to the reasonable Exertion of these Qualities for the Advantages we Expect: Assuring you at the same time, that we shall entertain a due Sense of the Services you may render to the Company on this important Occasion.

We are sorry to observe the Spirit of

Fort St. George April 1781.

/ Mutiny which lately appeared among your Seapoys.
— As we have not, however, heard any thing on this
Subject, since the date of your Letter, We flatter
ourselves it has subsided, and that no evil Consequence
will arise from it.

We shall take another Occasion of
replying to your Letter of the 9th relative to Capt.
Bridges's Memorial.

Our sole Intention in Sending the
Lively Brig to you, is to afford you an Opportunity
of forwarding hither all the Treasure which can
possibly be spared from your Settlement, as we are
in the most urgent want of Money for the Exigencies
of the Army to the Southwards: We do not mean
to prescribe the specific Sum to be Remitted, but
leave it to your discretion, desiring only that you
will reserve what may in your Opinion be absolutely
wanted for the immediate demands of the Bengal
Detachment.

The Company's Ships Dartmouth
and Rochford will proceed to Masulipatam with the
Lively, and are to remain there until she is clear
of Point Divi in her way back, that she may run
no Risk from French Cruizers, — On this Account We
desire you will put the Treasure on board, and
dispatch her with all possible Expedition

We have Embarked on the Indiamen,
the Officers and Soldiers who composed the late
Garrison

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/ Garrison at Arcot: By the Capitulation for the Surrender of that place, it was Agreed, that these Troops should not serve against Hyder during the War, and we have determined therefore to send them to Masulipatam, where this Restriction is not likely to affect their Services: We have also Embarked on these Ships 11 Cadets who are to do Duty as Officers in your District on their present Pay.

As soon as the Dartmouth and Rochford have performed the Service for which they are sent to Masulipatam, they are to proceed on their Voyage, taking on board for Vizagapatam the European Invalids, belonging to that Garrison, who lately came to your Settlement.

You will be careful to communicate communicate to the Captains of the Indiamen every Intelligence you may be able to acquire respecting the Enemy's Cruizers. - From what we can learn at present there are not any upon the Coast.

We are

Gentlemen

Your Most Obedient

humble Servants

Fort St. George
1st April 1781.

Charles Smith &c
Select Committee.

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2d Dispatched the following Letter to Vizagapatam.

To Mr. James Henry Casamajor

Chief &c Council of

Vizagapatam.

Gentlemen.

To Mr. Casamajor desiring certain Articles to be forwarded to Ganjam.

Our Committee of Stores having recommended that the Articles mentioned in the enclosed List be sent from your Settlement to Ganjam, We desire they may be Embarked on the Snow Hastings, the Commr of her having agreed to take them on board for that place.

We are

Gentlemen

Your Most obedient

humble Servants

Charles Smith &c

Select Committee.

Fort St. George
2d April 1781.

3d Received the following Letters

To The Honorable Charles Smith Esquire, President &c
Select Committee, Madras

From Col. Pearse, a Detachment breaks out in his Camp — recommends the removal his detachment with the Artillery — consl. Loss of the Rice laid up at Ganjam

Hon.ble Sir and Sirs.

I marched from Ganjam this Morng

tho' we are far from compleat in those Aids that are necessary such as Coolies, Bearers for the Hospital &c. but such a fatal

A fatal Sickness broke out suddenly in the Army as alarming beyond measure; Men in perfect Health dropped down dead by Dozens; those who were less affected all appear past Recovery: the Cause is unknown – it was attributed to the bad Effects of the Waters, also to the Violence of the Sea Winds. I suppose both Causes co-operated, but be the Cause what it may, I know no Remedy but Marching forwards.

It is necessary to apprize you that by the Returns I am Seven hundred Short of the Complement and have now, since this Sickness broke out, full five Hundred Sick in the Hospitals. This is a Subject that may merit your Consideration to the End that you may take measures for Compleating us.

I shall take the Liberty to point out the Mode I conceive may effect it, which is to give us Drafts from the Circar Battalions, but I should recommend doing it by taking only Volunteers, for if other Modes are adopted, the people may desert and then the Circar Battalions will be weakened without any benefit to us.

I did hope to have been honored with General Coote's Commands, but tho' I wrote on the 11th of last Month and sent a Return which has passed Masulipatam I have not heards a Word from him.

It would not have given you any more Information if I sent a Return for you know what ought to be our Strength, therefore to prevent any Information from falling into the hands of the Enemy I

3 I conceive it is better to write generally - you may easily suppose we shall diminish in strength daily, even if we pick up Recruits in our way, they will be raw and undisciplined

I beg to tell you that we seem to be — Marching thro' a Desert - every Creature flies from us as from a Pest, yet I am absolutely certain that the Troops have not done (five hundred Rupees Damage since they crossed the Chiloor, and certainly will not do any, if Wood is properly supplied gratis as it now is in Consequence of my representation to M.r Swaine.

On our Approach all the Coolies — abandoned the Works - the People fled from the Towns the Shops were shut - It struck the Troops and myself with Horror, for all thro' the Province of Orixa the People flocked to us from all Quarters, brought Provisions in Profusion for Sale - sold them and returned satisfied and happy. — Yet as provisions were dear, I promised the Troops plenty at a cheap Rate as soon as they Entered the provinces - You may then naturally conclude they were surprized at the being worse off than in the Mahrattah Districts.

The Rice that was laid in was Red - Coarse and Dear - our Seapoys were unaccustomed to eat red Rice refused it, and we obtained by sending to a Distance such as they liked, and at more reasonable Rates, in Consequence I desired M.r Swaine to order provisions -

vattah

3rd Provisions that were collected to be Delivered at prime Cost without charging Expences of Collection and he agreed to it: but still the Seapoys will not touch red Rice if better is to be had at any rate.

It has been my constant Study and daily Labor to March without leaving any Traces of our Progress — Except by the Benefit derived from the Sale of Commodities to us; and I have had the happiness to succeed to the entire Satisfaction of the Mahrattah Government, therefore to find we cannot get a single Cooley or Bearer on our — March thro' the Company's Dominions is a Subject that cannot fail to strike me, and to draw from me this — Representation: because I foresee that the worst of Consequences may Ensue.

I set out with three Month's Pay in the — Treasury, I need not inform you that it will be all — expended by the first of April. I have received Advice of a small Sum having been remitted for me to — Masulipatam, but as that will go a very little way, I submit the Subject to your Consideration our Expences are about 1,80000 Rupees a Month — only — 33000 are remitted that I know of yet. fixed

I take the Liberty to send you a Letter for Sir Eyre Coote that you may, if you please, forward it by the first safe conveyance.

I was apprized by the Honorable the Governor General and Council that you had ordered some Force to be collected to join this Army: I hope to hear further on the Subject from yourselves: for tho' I cannot say I covet the Aid much yet if I — could get a Body even of their Irregulars to protect our

our Baggage they would stand us in some stead, but if I could get a Body of Horse for our Flanks and Drafts for our Regiments I think we should be equal to whatever may be ordered for us to perform.

I foresee and lament that I must not expect much Communication from Sir Eyre Coote, whose Orders I am directed to obey

I am, with great Respect
Hon.ble Sir and Sirs,
Your most Obedient
Humble Servant
Tho.s Deane Pearse
Col:

Sour. Moniroor Cotta
22d March 1781.

P.S. I have told Sir Eyre Coote, that I suppose you will communicate in Cypher, the Substance of my Letter – that it is necessary he should know, therefore, I have written in general terms for want of a Cypher.

To The Honorable Charles Smith Esquire
President, and Select Committee
Fort St. George.

Gentlemen./

From Lt Le Grand advising of 1000 foot & 2000 Horse being between Laramgouly & Wandewash.

I beg leave to inform you that a Body of the Enemy, consisting of One thousand foot, two thousand Horse with four small Guns were yesterday between this and Wandewash: I am this

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3 this day informed they are on their March to — Tripasore, and that another large Body are to follow them, and to proceed to the Northward — in order to annoy the Bengal Detachment.

I am

Gentlemen, with Respect

Your most obedient humble Servant

Wm. Aug.s Legrand Lt.

Commanding at Carangouly

Carangouly
28th March 1781.

To The Honorable Charles Smith Esquire —

President and Governor of Fort St. George.

Hon.ble Sir,

From Major Maule, giving an Account of the Fortifications; thinks the Contractor for Hog Hill will be obliged to dismiss his People for want of Rice.

I have the honor to acquaint you that the Bricklayers under the Contractor for the Fortifications have been continued at Work since my last Report on the Sea-Gate Tenaillon, and that they have Key'd in the Arches of one Flank and part of one Face of that Work: Several Brick-layers are also daily employed in attending, Rubbing and Drying the Cisterns on the Sea Line, the Walls of which still continue very damp.

The Contractor for Hog Hill is now employing near Seven Thousand People and near three Hundred Carts: But I fear from his Representations to me for some time past, of his great want of Rice and Money, that he will be under the necessity of dismissing the greater part, if not all his

Fort St. George April 6. 1781.

3 Sir Coolies:- I cannot but assure you that such an Event would give me the greatest Concern, as on the Removal of the Houses we have found the Ground considerably higher than was Expected from the Level of the Streets, or could be ascertained at the time of taking the Measurements, and the State in which the Ground now remains, from that Circumstance, will be but little better than before the Removal of the Houses, unless the Business be further prosecuted. The great Dispatch with which this Work has hitherto been carried on, considering the Impediment occasioned by the Houses, gives me the greatest hopes that a very little more time will compleat it, if the Contractor be afforded the means of keeping on the Number of People he has at present employed.

The Contractor for Repairs has undertaken nothing New since my last Report.

I have the Honor to be

Honble Sir

Your most Obedient
and very humble Servant
Geo: Maule
Chief Engineer.

Fort St. George.
2d April 1781

To The Honble Charles Smith Esqr
President and Governor &c Members of
the Select Committee
Fort St. George.

Honble Sir and Sirs, /

Colonel

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From Ganjam, with an Account of the ill Health of Colonel Pearse's Detachment.

3

Colonel Pearse, with his Detachment marched from hence early this Morning.

I am sorry to have occasion to acquaint you that a Disorder prevailed in Camp these two days which has carried off a good many Sepoys & a Number of Followers. Our Hospital is filled with their Sick.

I cannot pretend to judge of the Cause of this Mortality, but beside the immediate Loss by Deaths, the Misfortune becomes greater by the Prejudices and Alarms of the People being thereby encreased.

In Consequence of the Orders of the Governor-General and Council, and the particular Requisition of Colonel Pearse considerable quantities of Provisions with Potts, Firewood and Straw have been provided at the different Stages from Manick-apatam through this District. Mr. Russell & c calculated the price, so as to defray the Cost and Charges, which Colonel Pearse has objected to allow — he also finds from the Reduction in his Numbers, and the occasional Supplies thrown into his Bazar — that the Provisions provided exceed the & c — Consumption. Colonel Pearse has made a Representation to me concerning the Articles of Potts, Firewood and Straw which, he says, in Bengal are always supplied to the Troops, gratis, and in Consequence of his particular Desire I acquiesced that these Things should be delivered free of any charges

3 Charges. I likewise told Colonel Pearse that the Provisions had been provided for his Assistance — that an Expence had certainly attended the Collection that no Advantage was meant to be taken — that Mr. Russell should accompany him to supply the Detachment with what they wanted — and that any extraordinary Loss or Charge must be settled — hereafter, when I may have occasion to address — your Honors &c more particularly upon this Subject

I am with Respect
Hon.ble Sirs and Sirs
Your very Obedient
humble Servant
John Turing

Ganjam
22d March 1781.

4th Received the following Letter from the Resident at the Cape of Good Hope by His Majesty's Sloop the Nymph which anchored this day in the Roads.

To The Hon.ble John Whitehill Esquire
President and Governor &c Members of the
Select Committee at Fort St. George.

Hon.ble Sir and Sirs.

I have the pleasure to inform you of the safe Arrival of His Majesty's Sloop Nymph in Table Bay on the 16th Ultimo. Agreeably to the Instructions I had

From Mr. Lewin giving an Account of his Interview with the Governor of the Cape of Good Hope and of the

Arrival of Comodore Barbers Fleet

4. had the Honor to receive from you I waited upon the Governor on the 17th. Instant and delivered the Letter addressed to him by your Honor's — The Governor received me with great Politeness, and After having been made acquainted with the purport of your Letter to him, said that he was not authorised by the States to receive any Foreigner in a public Character, but that I should have his permission to reside at the Cape as a Private Individual — He also observed that a French Gentleman of Mr. de Mouneron had been sent hither from the Islands on the same Business, but that he had not given him no farther Licence than would be granted to me. My Brother then presented a Letter to the Governor from Sir Edward Hughes requesting he might be permitted to go to Europe on a Dutch Ship, to which the Governor readily assented, however he said it was contrary to the Orders from Europe to suffer any English Gentlemen to be received Passengers on Dutch Ships, but as my Brother was charged with public Dispatches he would not prevent his Taking a Passage in a Dutch Ship.

As the Circumstance of my not being received in a public Character will I trust be no Detriment to me in Effecting the principal Object of my Appointment I have determined to continue here until I receive your Honors farther Commands, In the meantime I shall collect Intelligence and act agreeably to the Directions I have received from you, I flatter myself that I shall be able to accomplish almost every point which might reasonably have been expected

had

Fort St. George April 1781.

I had I been received as a Public Resident

The Fleet which sailed from Madras in April last under the Command of Commodore Barber arrived here the 25th. of August after having been obliged to go to Madagascar where they remained until the 28th. of July. — The Fleet consisting of the following Ships sailed from hence on the 12th. October last.

His Majestys Ships	Hon.ble Company's Ships
Belleisle	Ceres
Asia	Norfolk
Rippon	Ganges
	Talbot
	Barker
	Calcutta
	Royal Henry
	Worcester
	Morse
	Alfred

The following is a List of French Ships which compose their Armament destined for India, which I have Reason to believe sailed in the latter part of the Month of October last from Mauritius, without having Troops on board.

		Guns	Men
L'Orient	Mons.r D'Orve Comm.r in Chief	74	850
L'Ajax	Capt. Bouvet	64	750.
Le Severe	Capt. De Palliere	64	750.
Le Brillant	Capt. Tromelin l'aine	64	700.
Le Flamand	Capt. De la Laude	54	600.
Le Bizarre	Capt. De Tremegon — 2d. in Command	64	650.
La Pourvoyeuse	Capt. De Maurville	40	400.
La Consolante	Capt. De Karkadek	40	400.
La Subtile	Lieut. de Sylvert	20	200.

The —

Fort St. George April 1781.

4. The following are Ships employed as Victuallers viz.t

L.e Elephant } Ships of 30 Guns and about 800
Ganges ... } Tons Burthen.

Lauriston . 36 Guns. Pegu built.

Enigheid . 36 d.o formerly in the Danish Service.

Osterly

Bons Amis . a Ship of about 600 Tons.

Elizabeth - is laid up, her Guns are landed, and Crew distributed among the several Ships of War.

Le Hercule of 24 Guns is Expected at the Cape.

L'Argus - 18 Guns, Fromelin le Cadet is either - gone to India with the Fleet, or continues at the Islands

L'Oiseau of 18 Guns is at the Islands.

There are three Vessells fitted out as, Privateers, the first is a Snow called La Philippine, which I am informed carries 16 four pounders and 2 Twelves besides Swivels. - her Complement of Men is 150 of which the Major part are Slaves - This Snow sailed on a Cruize in July 1780 - her Station is supposed to be about the Streights of Malacca.

The 2.d is a Ship the Solomon said to carry 36 Guns of which 22 are Eight Pounders and fourteen fours - 250 Men - manned by Slaves chiefly

The 3.d is a Snow, the St. John, about the same Force as the Philippine - and Manned in the same Manner - the Solomon and this Vessell were Victuallers for Six Months and sailed together

in

4 in August last, (it is imagined) for the Bay of Bengal, and will probably touch at Diamond Island or the Nicobars.

I am very doubtful of the Strength of the above mentioned privateers for in the written Account of them which I am in Possession of, there appears an Inconsistence which I cannot help taking Notice of — The Solomon is said to be a Ship of 300 Tons Burthen, if so, she cannot carry 36 Guns. The Snow St. Ann, is said to be of the same burthen as the Philippine, and her Complement of Men the same, yet this Vessell by the Account carries 28 Guns Six and four Pounders: I have however above Reckoned her of the same force as the Philippine.

The French carry on a Trade to Mozambique from the Islands, and their Vessells are generally without Convoy, some time since the Brillant and Pourvoyeuse with 2 Merchant Ships carried 500 Troops (lately arrived from France) to supply the places of 160 of the Regiment of the Island who had been there since October 1779. In order to effect the compleat Manning of those Ships employed in the Expedition to India, 400 Soldiers and 500 Slaves were embarked on board that Fleet.

Vessells are constantly employed to fetch Provisions from Bourbon to Mauritius — so that if Cruizers were to go in that Quarter the People of those Islands would be much distressed. The