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Edited by John Gurwood

Excerpt

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INTRODUCTION.

THE EARLY SERVICES OF
FIELD MARSHAL THE DUKE OF WELLINGTON,
IN HOLLAND AND IN INDIA.

LIEUT. COLONEL the HON. ARTHUR WELLESLEY embarked at Cork in command of the 33rd regt. in May, 1794, and landed in the month following at Ostend, to join the British army under H.R.H. the Duke of York, then in the Low Countries. The approach of the French army under Gen. Pichegru rendered it necessary to evacuate Ostend without delay; and the 33rd regt., with two other battalions, proceeded round by the Scheldt to Antwerp, where it remained encamped during the month of July. On the retreat of the army under the Duke of York from Alost into Holland, Lieut. Col. Wellesley took up his allotted station with his regiment, and joined in the retrograde movement on Breda and Bois-le-duc. The French army followed; and on the 14th Sept. there was a serious affair near Bostel.

The British army afterwards continued to retreat towards Nimeguen, and took up a position on the right bank of the Waahl. While posted between the Waahl and the Leck, several affairs took place with the advance of the French army, in which the 33rd were engaged both in the attack on Tuyl, on the 30th Dec. 1794, and at Meteren and Geldermalsen, on the 5th Jan. 1795. Having crossed the Leck, the retreat was continued by Amersfoort, Deventer, and Coeverden, to Meppen, on the Ems. In these operations, Lieut. Col. Wellesley, as senior officer, commanded a brigade, consisting of 3 battalions, in the rear guard; evincing that zeal and intelligence which, in the opinion of Sir James Craig and several officers of merit and reputation, gave promise of future distinction. The campaign ended by the re-embarkation of the British army at Bremen, on the breaking up of the ice in the spring of 1795.*

On the return of the army to England, the 33rd regt. landed at Harwich, and was for a short time encamped at Warley. In the autumn it proceeded to Southampton, and Lieut. Col. Wellesley embarked with it for the West Indies, in the fleet commanded by Adm. Christian. After many delays from contrary winds the fleet sailed; but the expedition, having been about 6 weeks at sea during the most tempestuous weather, in which many of the vessels composing it were lost, was obliged to return to Spithead.

* Very few of the letters, and no copies, written during this campaign, have been preserved.

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The 33rd regt. was landed, and quartered at Poole. Its destination having been changed for India, it was again embarked in the beginning of April, 1796; but Lieut. Col. Wellesley, in consequence of severe illness, was unable to leave the country. He, however, followed shortly afterwards, and joined his corps at the Cape of Good Hope, where he remained until March of the following year. He proceeded with the 33rd to Bengal, and arrived at Calcutta in the beginning of 1797. At the end of that year the regiment formed part of the expedition from Bengal under Gen. St. Leger, projected by the Governor General, Sir John Shore (afterwards Lord Teignmouth), to attack Manilla: but on arriving at Penang, where the other part of the expedition from Madras joined, fresh orders were received for the recall of the troops to their several Presidencies, in consequence of apprehensions entertained by Lord Hobart, Governor of Fort St. George, that Tippoo Sultaun might be induced, by the absence of the troops, to invade the Carnatic.

The 33rd regt. returned to Bengal; and Col. Wellesley soon afterwards went to Madras on a visit to Lord Hobart, previously to the departure of his Lordship for Europe. After an absence of 2 months, he returned to Calcutta, having rapidly examined the establishments at Madras, and other parts of the Carnatic.

The Earl of Mornington (afterwards Marquis Wellesley), having been appointed to succeed Sir J. Shore as Governor General of India, arrived at Calcutta on the 17th May, 1798, after having touched at the Cape of Good Hope, and at Madras, where he had remained a few days.

Lord Mornington had been for some time an active member of the Board of Control, and he had the advantage of being well acquainted with the general state of affairs in India. At the period of his departure from England, it was generally believed, and he was himself confident, that he should find India in a state of profound peace; and that expectation was fully confirmed by the reports which reached him upon his arrival at Madras, from the several authorities at the different Presidencies of India.

Internal tranquillity prevailed throughout the Company's possessions, and no apprehension was entertained of hostile designs on the part of any of the neighbouring states. In the absence of all appearance of danger from abroad, his Lordship's attention, upon his arrival at Calcutta, was principally directed to internal affairs. This state of tranquillity was not, however, of long duration: it was interrupted by the discovery of the hostile designs and treacherous conduct of Tippoo Sultaun, and followed by the campaign of 1799.

It may be proper here to advert shortly to the circumstances which gave rise to the second Mysore war, as the commencement of Col. Wellesley's military career in India; the more so, as some of the publications, which profess to record the events of this period, have ascribed to the Indian government at home, and to the new Governor General, an inclination to take advantage of any pretext for reducing the power of Tippoo Sultaun, and for removing from India the French officers in the service of the Native Princes. This assumption is directly at variance with the general tenor of the public records. On the contrary, it appears

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that one of the first acts of the new Governor General was to address a conciliatory letter to Tippoo Sultaun, dated 14th June, 1798 (*see the Dispatches of Marquis Wellesley*, vol. i., p. 59), in reply to an application received by Sir J. Shore at the moment of his departure, claiming restitution of Wynaad, and some other districts on the western frontier of Mysore, which Tippoo alleged had been erroneously transferred to the East India Company, under the treaty of Seringapatam in 1797.

Tippoo Sultaun's claims were referred to certain Commissioners, then employed in Malabar under the orders of the government of Bombay, for the investigation of claims of this nature; and upon their making a report in favor of the Sultaun's pretensions, those districts were immediately restored to him, under a proclamation by the Governor General.

This circumstance alone would be sufficient to demonstrate the pacific intentions of the British government at that period, in addition to which, the exhausted state of the Company's treasury, and of its credit in India at that moment, were also reasons to deter the Governor General from engaging in war, if it had been possible to avoid it; but the destruction of the power of Tippoo Sultaun, and of the influence of France in India, did not then form any part of the policy, either of the Earl of Mornington or of the British ministry, or of the East India government at home.

Early in June, 1798, a paper was received by the Governor General, at Calcutta, containing a Proclamation by M. Malartic, the Governor General of the Isle of France, and of the French establishments east of the Cape of Good Hope, which announced the arrival of 2 Ambassadors with letters from Tippoo Sultaun, proposing an offensive and defensive alliance, for the purpose of expelling the English from India. This intelligence, which at first appeared incredible, was, in a few days, confirmed by a dispatch, received at Calcutta, from Lord Macartney, the Governor at the Cape of Good Hope, conveying a copy of M. Malartic's Proclamation; and it was further confirmed by the arrival of a ship from Mauritius, the captain of which deposed, upon examination before the Governor General, that he was on shore when the Proclamation was issued, and that he had witnessed the reception of the Ambassadors.

Gen. Malartic, having no regular troops to spare, invited all French citizens, so disposed, to join the standard of Tippoo: and it is a coincidence worthy of remark, that Tippoo's Ambassadors, with as many Frenchmen as they were able to engage for the Sultaun's service, had landed from *La Preneuse* French frigate, at Mangalore, on the 28th April, 1798; being the very same day on which Lord Mornington landed at Madras, when on his way to Calcutta.

Although Tippoo's hatred of the British nation, and his eager desire for vengeance, and for the recovery of the provinces which Lord Cornwallis had compelled him to cede to the Company and its Allies, in 1791, were well known; yet it appears that no suspicion was entertained, before the receipt of this intelligence from Mauritius, that he had actually adopted such decided measures of hostility. It was, however, soon afterwards discovered that he was engaged in similar negotiations with Zemaun Shah, and several other Native Princes, as well as with the French officers

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in their service ; and it was also ascertained that he had actually succeeded in engaging the French officers in the Nizam's service to enter into his views.

His Highness the Nizam, Soubahdar of the Deccan, had in his service a force of 14,000 well disciplined infantry, commanded by M. Raymond, with 124 French officers, eager partisans of the French republic, and who were on the point of erecting the French standard at his capital, Hyderabad. The strength and efficiency of this corps, and its position on a vulnerable part of the frontiers of the Company's territory, demanded immediate attention. By the judicious and prompt interference of the Governor General, a British detachment, commanded by Lieut. Col. Roberts, was secretly but expeditiously dispatched to Hyderabad on the 10th Oct. 1798 ; and on the 22nd of the month, under the orders of the Nizam, the whole of the French officers were compelled to surrender, without firing a shot. His Highness, being thus relieved from their control, concluded a new treaty of alliance with the British government, whereby he bound himself to exclude, not only from his army, but from his dominions, all Frenchmen or other adventurers from Europe ; and likewise engaged to maintain at his capital a corps of British troops for the effectual security of the alliance. A treaty was also formed with the Peshwah, the nominal head of the Marhatta Empire, which secured the neutrality of that Chief, in the absence of any other stipulated advantage.

Lord Mornington obtained information of all the Sultaun's measures, and prevented their execution with that vigor which characterized his administration in India. After a very able minute in the Secret department, on the 12th Aug. 1798 (*see the Dispatches of Marquis Wellesley*, 1 vol. p. 159), in which he fully and satisfactorily stated the grounds and motives of his proceedings, he ordered Lieut. Gen. Harris, the Commander in Chief at Madras, to assemble the forces of the Company in the Carnatic. His Excellency, having written to Tippoo Sultaun on the 8th Nov. and 10th Dec. (*see the Dispatches of Marquis Wellesley*, vol. i., pp. 326 and 363), proceeded in person to Fort St. George, where he arrived on the 31st Dec. 1798, for the purpose of superintending and directing the preparations for war, in the event of failure in negotiation.

The 33rd regt. had in the mean time been placed on the Madras establishment, for which it sailed from Bengal on the 14th Aug., and arrived in Sept. 1798.

In November the greater part of the troops were assembled, and encamped at Wallajahbad, under the orders of Col. Wellesley, with whom the general superintendence remained until February following, when Gen. Harris arrived to assume the personal command of the army, which had proceeded to Vellore. The attention which Col. Wellesley had bestowed on the discipline and well being of the troops, and in practising them in combined field movements, with the admirable system he adopted for supplying the bazaars, which were kept constantly well provided, attracted general notice and approbation ; and when Gen. Harris joined the army to take command, after receiving the reports of the heads of corps and departments, he was so pleased with Col. Wellesley's arrangements, that he conceived it to be an imperative duty to publish a general

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order* conveying commendation of the merits of Col. Wellesley during his temporary command.

Soon after the arrival of the Governor General at Fort St. George, his Excellency again wrote to Tippoo on the 9th Jan. (*see the Dispatches of Marquis Wellesley*, vol. i., p. 394), recapitulating, at considerable length, the complaint, contained in the letter of the 8th Nov., with other details of the whole of the Sultaun's hostile proceedings, subsequently embodied in the Declaration of War. The Governor General requested that a reply might not be deferred for more than one day after this communication of the 9th Jan. should reach the Sultaun's presence, or dangerous consequences would ensue. No reply, however, having been received, and the difficulties inseparable from the equipment of so large a force having at length been overcome, the Governor General, on the 3rd Feb., dispatched his commands to Gen. Harris, to enter the Mysore territory with the forces assembled at Vellore; and to Lieut. Gen. Stuart to co-operate with the Bombay army from Malabar; while, at the same time, he gave intimation to the Allied Courts, and the British Admiral on the coast, that he now considered the Company at war with Tippoo Sultaun.

The army assembled at Vellore exceeded 20,000 men, whereof 2600 were cavalry, and 4300 Europeans. It marched on the 11th Feb., and on the 18th was joined by the British detachment serving with the Nizam, 6500 strong, under Lieut. Col. Dalrymple; with an equal number of the Nizam's infantry, including a portion of the sepoys lately under French, but now, according to treaty, under British officers, commanded by Capt. John Malcolm (the late Lieut. Gen. Sir J. Malcolm, G.C.B.), and a large body of the Nizam's cavalry under Capt. Walker.

The whole of the Nizam's force was under the superintendence of Meer Alum, his Highness's minister; and in order to give it the utmost degree of efficiency and respectability, it was deemed proper to add one of His Majesty's regiments of infantry to the Company's battalions serving with it, and to form the whole into a separate division. Meer Alum expressed a wish that the Governor General's brother should be appointed to command the Nizam's forces; and Gen. Harris felt the importance of selecting an officer who possessed his own confidence, and who was likely to enjoy that of Meer Alum. The 33rd was accordingly the regiment attached to the Nizam's contingent, as this force was denominated, and the general command of it was thus given to Col. Wellesley. This arrangement was very agreeable to the Nizam and to Meer Alum; and it contributed very much to maintain the good understanding between the Court of Hyderabad and the British government.

The forces assembled under the orders of Gen. Harris consisted of upwards of 30,000 men, and, in the words of the Governor General, 'an army more completely appointed, more amply and liberally supplied in every department, or more perfect in its discipline, and in the acknowledged experience, ability, and zeal of its officers, never took the field in India.' The army of the western coast, equal in excellence, under Lieut. Gen.

* Search has been made for this general order, and also for the orders issued by Col. Wellesley to the force assembled at Wallajahbad. No trace of them remains at the Presidency of Fort St. George.

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Stuart, consisted of 6400 fighting men, of whom 1600 were Europeans; whilst a detachment of about 4000 under Lieut. Col. Brown, and another of 5000 under Lieut. Col. Read, marched to co-operate with the Commander in Chief, from the southern districts of the Carnatic and the Baramahl.

On the 13th Feb., the Governor General received a letter from the Sultaun, to which, on the 22nd, his Excellency replied; accompanied by a Declaration of the same date for himself and his allies, the Nizam and the Peshwah (*see the Despatches of Marquis Wellesley*, vol. i., pp. 448 and 453).

The Bombay army, under Lieut. Gen. Stuart, marched from Cannanore on the 21st Feb.; Gen. Harris entered the Mysore territory on the 5th March, and commenced his operations by the reduction of several forts on the frontier.

Gen. Harris was not only invested with unrestricted military command, but was empowered to exert all the civil authority which would have belonged to the Governor General in his situation. He was further provided with a political and diplomatic commission, composed of Col. the Hon. A. Wellesley, Lieut. Col. Barry Close, Lieut. Col. Agnew, and Capt. Malcolm, with Capt. Macaulay as secretary. This commission was not, however, entitled to act, except in obedience to the orders of the General.

On the 6th March, Tippoo Sultaun passed his own frontier, and attacked a detachment of the Bombay army near Sedaseer. This attack, though sustained by a body not exceeding 2000 men, was repulsed, and the enemy thrown into disorder, even before Gen. Stuart could collect the whole of his divided force. After this signal failure, Tippoo retreated precipitately to his camp at Periapatam, and remained there until the 11th March, without making any further attempt to molest the Bombay army. He then moved to Seringapatam, and afterwards marched from thence to meet the Madras army under Gen. Harris.

The army under Gen. Harris was not ready to make its united movement upon Seringapatam until the 9th March. Many delays occurred from the British army being overloaded with equipment and materials for siege, in addition to the cumbrous baggage of the Nizam's army, a host of brinjaries, and the innumerable followers of the camp. The draught and carriage bullocks died in great numbers, and the arrangements necessary to remedy this evil compelled the army to halt on the 11th, on the 14th, on the 15th, and again on the 18th. On the 21st, it encamped at Cankannelli; and on the 22nd, 2 tanks of importance, which the enemy had begun to destroy, were secured at Achel.

This slow movement brought the army, on the 27th, only as far as Mallavelly; when, on approaching the ground of encampment, the army of Tippoo Sultaun was discovered at a few miles distance, drawn up on a height. The advanced piquets of the British army were attacked by the enemy, and, more troops being sent out to their aid, a general action ensued. The British army, under Gen. Harris, formed the right wing; and the Nizam's army, with the 33rd regt., under Col. Wellesley, formed the left. The right wing, having deployed into line, began to advance: an opening between 2 brigades tempted the Sultaun, and he marched against

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it in person with a body of cavalry with much spirit; but he was unsuccessful, as the movement produced no disorder in the British ranks, which soon outflanked the enemy's left. In the mean while the division commanded by Col. Wellesley was formed nearly opposite the enemy's extreme right, which was strongly posted on the elevated crest of a rocky ridge. Gen. Harris having dispatched an aide de camp to Col. Wellesley, approving of the attack he had proposed, and also to Gen. Floyd to support it, Col. Wellesley advanced *en échelon* of battalions, supported by 3 regiments of cavalry; when a column of the enemy, consisting of about 2000 infantry, moved forward in excellent order towards the 33rd regt., which corps, reserving its fire, with the utmost steadiness received that of the enemy at a distance of about 60 yards; then quickening its advance, the enemy's column gave way and was thrown into disorder. Gen. Floyd, seizing this critical moment, charged them with his cavalry, and destroyed great numbers.

The army moved on the 28th March to Sosilay, where there is an easy ford to cross the river Cauvery. Tippoo Sultaun, being thus disappointed in the route which Gen. Harris took after the affair of Mallavelly, fell back on Seringapatam; and the British army arrived on the ground for the siege of that fortress on the 5th April. A new line of intrenchments had been constructed between the Dowlut Baug to the Periapatam bridge, and covered that part of the fort. Between these works and the Cauvery, the infantry of Tippoo Sultaun were encamped. Fronting the east, the right of the British camp was posted on high commanding ground, sloping gradually to the left flank, which was doubly secured by an aqueduct or watercourse, and by the Cauvery. From the left of the position, the aqueduct took an easterly direction till within 1700 yards of the fort, where it turned off towards the Sultaun-pettah tope. There were several ruined villages and rocky eminences in front that afforded cover, from whence the enemy threw rockets, which fell among the tents of the British camp. It became, therefore, indispensable to the quiet and security of the besieging army to dispossess the enemy of these posts, without loss of time. For this purpose the 12th regt. and 2 battalions of sepoys, with their guns, under the command of Lieut. Col. Shawe, of H.M. 12th regt.; and another division, consisting of the 33rd regt. and a Native battalion, under Col. Wellesley, were ordered to be in readiness at sunset on the 5th; and whilst Col. Shawe was to attack the posts at the aqueduct, Col. Wellesley was to make a diversion by scouring the tope.

Both divisions marched a little after sunset. The darkness of the night was very unfavorable to their advance. Col. Shawe seized a ruined village within 40 yards of the aqueduct: Col. Wellesley, advancing about the same time with one wing of the 33rd regt. to attack the tope, was, upon entering it, assailed on every side by a hot fire of musketry and rockets. This circumstance, joined to the extreme darkness of the night, the badness of the ground, and the uncertainty of the enemy's position, were inducements to confine the operations to the object of causing a diversion to Col. Shawe's attack, and to postpone any further attempt until a more favorable opportunity should occur; and Col. Wellesley, after the firing had ceased, returned to camp to make his report of the failure to the Commander in Chief.

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Gen. Harris, finding that the village occupied by Col. Shawe was very much annoyed by the enemy's musketry from the aqueduct, to which the enemy had sent a reinforcement, and that the possession of the Sultaun-pettah tope was absolutely necessary to secure the camp, as well as to support Col. Shawe's post, ordered a new disposition on the morning of the 6th, to drive the enemy from their whole line of outposts, extending from the Cauvery to the tope. For this purpose he directed that 3 simultaneous attacks, under the orders of Col. Wellesley, should be made, covered by guns previously posted. The troops were paraded: and, at 9 in the morning, Col. Wellesley, with the Scotch brigade, 2 battalions of sepoys, and 4 guns, in addition to his former force, again advanced on the tope, which was soon carried; parties being detached to take the enemy in flank threw them into confusion, and obliged them to retire with precipitation. Precisely at the same moment, Col. Shawe quitted the ruined village and rushed upon the enemy; whilst Col. Wallace drove them out of a village on the right flank. Lieut. Col. Barry Close, who had accompanied Col. Wellesley on this service, soon came back; and, on entering Gen. Harris's tent, he announced, 'It has been done in high style, and without loss.' The posts evacuated by the enemy were immediately occupied by the British troops, who thus secured a strong and connected advanced line, extending from the Cauvery to the village of Sultaun-pettah, a distance of 2 miles; forming, in fact, a line of contravallation, principally by the aqueduct, at a convenient distance from the fort, and from the encampment of the army.

The notes and letters written by Col. Wellesley after this attack show the terms on which he was with his General; and at the same time substantiate a fact, not sufficiently known, that Gen. Harris himself conducted the details of the victorious army which he commanded.

The siege proceeded, when fresh overtures were made by Tippoo Sultaun. The advanced period of the season and the failure of provisions made it hazardous to delay the siege for an instant; particularly as the Governor General, in his letters to the Court of Directors, afterwards described in his own words: 'Towards the end of April fresh circumstances arose, which disposed me to think that, if the course of the war should favor the attempt, it would be prudent and justifiable entirely to overthrow the power of Tippoo: accordingly, on the 23rd April, I signified to Lieut. Gen. Harris my wish that the power and resources of Tippoo Sultaun should be reduced to the lowest state; and even utterly destroyed, if the events of the war should furnish the opportunity.'

On the 3rd May the breach appeared to be practicable, and preparations were eagerly made for the assault. On the morning of the 4th, the troops destined for the attack were placed in the trenches before daylight, that the enemy might not observe any particular movement. The heat of the day, when the people of the East, having taken their mid-day repast, give themselves up to repose, and when it was confidently expected that the troops in the fortress would be least prepared to resist, was chosen for the hour of assault; the experience of former wars, and especially of that under Lord Cornwallis, having proved that the enemy was always found more watchful and alert at night than in the heat of day.

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Two regiments and 10 flank companies of Europeans, 3 corps of grenadier sepoy, and 200 of the Nizam's troops, formed the storming party, consisting of 2500 Europeans, and 1900 Native infantry. Major Gen. Baird, who had solicited the command, divided this force into 2 separate columns, which, on mounting the breach, were to file off to the right and left. Col. Sherbrooke commanded the right column, destined for the attack of the southern rampart; and Lieut. Col. Dunlop commanded the left, to clear the northern rampart. The forlorn hope of each attack consisted of 1 serjeant and 12 Europeans, who were followed by 2 subalterns' parties; the party of the right column was commanded by Lieut. Hill of the 74th, and the other, of the left column, by Lieut. Lawrence of the 77th regts. Col. Wellesley remained in the advanced trenches in command of the reserve, to support the troops in the assault, in case it should be necessary.

At 1 o'clock the troops began to move from the trenches. The width and rocky channel of the Cauvery, though it contained but little water, its exposure to the fire of the fortress, the imperfection of the breach, the strength of the place, the numbers, courage, and skill of its defenders, constituted such an accumulation of difficulties, that nothing less than unbounded confidence in the force and courage of his men could have inspired a prudent general with hopes of success. The troops descended into the bed of the river, and advanced, regardless of a tremendous fire, towards the opposite bank. 'In less than 10 minutes from the period of issuing from the trenches, the British colors were planted on the summit of the breach.' Tippoo Sultaun, although advised by the most judicious of his officers, had neglected to cut a trench, so as to insulate the angle of the fort in which the breach had been effected; and the assailing parties, under Major Gen. Baird, Col. Sherbrooke, and Lieut. Col. Dunlop, taking the directions ordered, soon cleared the ramparts. The further details of this eventful enterprise are to be found in 'Lieut. Col. Beatson's Narrative of the operations of the army under Lieut. Gen. Harris, and of the siege of Seringapatam,' from which the foregoing are chiefly selected; and in which also will be found the translations of several State papers, unequivocally proving the systematic and unremitting ardor of the late Sultaun in his attempts to subvert the British power in India.

Gen. Harris, in his dispatch to the Earl of Mornington, the Governor General, announcing the fall of Seringapatam, reports,

'Of the merits of the army I have expressed my opinion in Orders, a copy of which I have the honor to enclose; and I trust your Lordship will point out their services to the favorable notice of their King and country.' (*See G.O.*, pp. 27, 28.)

In the abstracts it appears that the strength of Tippoo Sultaun's forces on the 4th May, 1799, consisted of 48,000 men, about 22,000 of whom were either in the fort or in the dependent entrenchments of Seringapatam; and that the army commanded by Lieut. Gen. Harris consisted of 8700 Europeans and 27,000 Natives, of which force 20,000 assisted at the siege.

It may be necessary here to mention that Col. Wellesley entered the fort immediately after the assault; and was one of the few present when

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Tippoo Sultaun's body, which was still warm, was discovered in the sally-port gateway.

Major Gen. Baird having desired to be relieved, Col. Wellesley, being next on the roster, was ordered on the same night to command within the fort (*see Memoirs of the late Gen. Lord Harris*, pp. 419 and 420).

Col. Wellesley exerted himself to the utmost to prevent excess of every kind; cowle flags were hoisted in different parts of the town, and public notice given that severe examples would be made of any persons detected in the act of plundering the houses or molesting the inhabitants; for, although Gen. Baird had given protection to some of the principal families, and used every means in his power to restore order in the town, yet it could not be expected that the tumult and disorder, which were unavoidable in a city, so extensive, taken by assault, would immediately subside; nor was it until 4 men had been executed for plunder that perfect tranquillity was restored. These examples, and the personal activity of Col. Wellesley, who went himself to the houses of the principal families with safeguards, soon inspired a general confidence. The inhabitants, who had quitted the town during the night of the storm, and had slept in the open fields, returned quickly to their houses and occupations. In a few days the bazaars were stored with all sorts of provisions and merchandise, for which there was a ready and advantageous sale; and the main street of Seringapatam, 3 days after the fort was taken, was so much crowded as to be almost impassable, and exhibited more the appearance of a fair than that of a town just taken by assault.

Gen. Harris, on the receipt of Col. Wellesley's letter of the 6th May, lost no time in carrying into effect the recommendation which it contained. He immediately directed a regular garrison for Seringapatam, and appointed Col. Wellesley to the command of it, as he felt satisfied that he could not confide the complicated and delicate duties of a civil and political, as well as of a military nature, required from the officer in charge of the capital, to any one better qualified to conduct them with advantage. These duties of necessity devolved upon the officer in command of Seringapatam, in consequence of the sudden and complete dissolution of Tippoo's government, the dispersion of all the public functionaries, and the helpless situation of the late Sultaun's family, then in the palace.

The authentic documents, relating to the appointment of Col. Wellesley to the command of Seringapatam, must exculpate the Commander in Chief from the charge of unduly favoring Col. Wellesley to the prejudice of Gen. Baird; a charge which has been cast upon that honorable and distinguished officer, Gen. Harris, in 'The Memoirs of the late Gen. Sir D. Baird,' where copies are given of the letters of remonstrance of that officer to the Commander in Chief, on the appointment of Col. Wellesley to the command of Seringapatam, as well as on his former appointment to the command of the army of his Highness the Nizam. The original letters remain in the possession of the family of the late Lord Harris; and, on comparing these original letters with the copies published, it appears that, in the latter, some passages have been omitted, which in a great measure contain in themselves a refutation of the partiality and injustice of which Gen. Baird improperly complained. In these memoirs, also, the judg-