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Whitehall, September 23, 1760.

Copy of a Letter from Colonel Eyre Coote, who commands His Majesty's Forces in the East-Indies, to the Right Honourable Mr. Secretary Pitt; dated, Arcot Village, the 13th of February, 1760.

S I R,

I have the Honour to acquaint you of the Situation of our Affairs on the Coast of Coromandel since my Arrival, and of our happy Successes. Soon after I arrived, the Governor and Council of Madras being informed, that General Lally had sent a Detachment of his Army to the Southward, and that that Party had taken Syringham, and threatned Trichenopoly with a Siege, it was therefore thought advisable, that I should take the Field with the Army, and by that Means endeavour to draw the Enemy from the Southward. Accordingly, on the 25th of November 1759, I took the Field, and, on the 27th, invested Wondivash, and erected Batteries; and having made a Breach by the 30th, took the Place, and made the Garrison (which consisted of Five Subaltern Officers, Sixty-three private Men, and Eight Hundred Seapoys,) Prisoners of War: There were in the Garrison Forty-nine Pieces of Cannon, and a great Quantity of Ammunition. December the 3d, I invested Carangoly. On the 6th, I opened a two Gun Battery, and on the 7th another, and began to carry on Approaches. On the 10th, being near the Crest of the Glacis, and having dismounted all their Guns but four, Colonel O'Kennely, who commanded, sent out a Flag of Truce, and, on Account of his gallant Defence, I granted him the following Terms: That the Europeans should have Leave to march out with their Arms, two Rounds per Man, Drums beating, and six Days Provisions; The Seapoys to be disarmed, and turned about their Business. The Garrison consisted of One Hundred Europeans, (Officers included) Five Hundred Seapoys; and nine Guns. Having Intelligence that Brigadier General Buffy was arrived at Arcot from the Northward, with Three Hundred Europeans, and a large Black Army, and that the Army, which lay at Chittiput, was to join him, and that the Forces from the Southward were on their March towards Arcot, I therefore thought it advisable to cross the Palla, and encamp the Army opposite to Arcot, having the Palla between us. Three Thousand Moratta Horse about this Time joined the Enemy, which put me to the greatest Distress for Want of Provisions, as they plundered all the Country.

[Price Three-Pence.]

On the 27th, Lieutenant General Lally arrived at Arcot, and took the Command. January the 9th the Enemy were all in Motion. On the 10th, General Lally marched with all his Army towards Wondivash, and I moved with our Army along the Bank of the River, in order to observe their Motions, and cover our own Country. On the 12th I received a Letter from the Commanding Officer at Conjeveram, that 500 of the Enemy's Europeans, and a large Body of Horse, had entered the Town; and that the rest of their Army lay at Jangolam, three Miles distance from it: I therefore put the Army in Motion, and endeavoured, by a forced March, to save that Place, which was very weak (but of Consequence to us) and happily arrived there the 13th before Day-light. The Enemy quitting the Place, their Army moved towards Wondivash. The 15th I crossed the Palla with all the Army, and on the 17th arrived at Outremalour, about Fourteen Miles from Wondivash, which Place I found M. Lally had invested, and began to raise Batteries. The 21st I went with all the Cavalry to reconnoitre, having received a Letter from the Commanding Officer of the Garrison, that a Breach was made; I therefore determined to engage the Enemy the next Morning. Accordingly, I sent Orders back to the Army to join me at Irimborough, Nine Miles from Wondivash, where I had taken Post with the Cavalry. On the 22d, the Army marched, at Six o'Clock in the Morning, agreeable to the Orders I had given out the Day before for that Purpose. About Seven o'Clock, our advanced Guard of Horse, and that of the Enemy, began to fire at each other; upon which I ordered Captain Baron de Vasserot, who commanded the Cavalry, to form them in Order of Battle; he was supported by Five Companies of Seapoys; and, at the same Time, I ordered up Two Pieces of Cannon, and advancing myself with Two Companies of Seapoys, obliged the Enemy to retire to their main Body of Horse, which consisted of Two Hundred Europeans, and Three Thousand Morattas, on their Left. Upon the Whole of our Cavalry's advancing, that of the Enemy retired in pretty good Order, till our Cannon began to play, which was extremely well served, and obliged them to retire precipitately. I then ordered the Major of Brigade to the Army, which was about three Quarters of a Mile in the Rear, with Orders for them to form the Line of Battle, but not to advance till I had joined them. Soon after, having taken Possession of a Tank, which the Enemy's Cavalry had occupied, I returned to the Line, which by that Time was formed according to my Orders. After reviewing the Whole, and finding the Men in great Spirits, and eager to engage, I ordered the Army to move forward. About Nine o'Clock