

Europeans, and 1600 Sepoys. We before mentioned the Force the General supposed he should be able to collect.

It was some Relief to us in this Misfortune, and gave us Confidence and Hopes of retrieving it, that just at this Time we received Advice, by the Way of Buffora, of the Preliminaries of a General Peace having been signed at Paris, the 20th of January.

There is still a very respectable Force remaining at Carwar, Onore and Mangulore. We are apprehensive for the Safety of Onore in case it should be vigorously attacked, but trust the Troops at Carwar and Mangulore will be preserved. At Carwar, and the Posts dependant, there is One Battalion of Sepoys; and at Mangulore, the 4th Regiment, and some small Detachments from other Regiments and Company's Troops, amounting altogether to about 400 Men, besides Artillery and upwards of Four Battalions of Sepoys, giving, on a Return dated the 8th of May, near 3000 Men. There is also a sufficient Stock of Provisions, and a Number of able Officers, in the Place, which is under the Command of Major Campbell; and we have strong Hopes that the Strength of the Garrison and the Approach of the Monsoon will baffle the Attempts of the Enemy.

This Force will prove a good Foundation for a new Army; and we trust, notwithstanding our late Loss, we shall be able, with proper Assistance of Money, and a Body of European Infantry, to renew and continue a powerful Diversion on this Coast (Malabar) against the Dominions of Tippoo Saib. The Peace in Europe, and with the Marattas, will now enable this Presidency, without Danger, to furnish a strong Body of Sepoys, and a respectable Detachment of Artillery, in Addition to those now to the Southward.

Lest you should not have received Advice of the early Return of the French Fleet to the other Coast, and an Account of their Proceedings, we think it right to insert a Paper transmitted to us by the Select Committee at Madras, with their Letter of the 12th March, being Intelligence given by Captain Light, whose Vessel had been made a Prize of by M. Suffrein.

"The French Fleet, consisting of 11 Sail of the Line, and the La Fine and Bellona Frigates, left Acheen the 20th of December; the Hannibal and Bellona were sent to cruise off the Braces. The 6th of January the Fleet arrived at Ganjam, the 10th ditto the Coventry was taken; she had spoke with the Blandford that Morning, who informed Captain Wolfesley that in the Night he had engaged a Privateer. The Coventry seeing a Ship at Anchor at Ganjam Roads, supposed it to be the Privateer, and ran close in before she discovered the Rest of the Fleet. On the 11th the Blandford was taken by the Coventry. On the 18th the Blake was taken by the Coventry. On the 20th and 21st Three small Vessels in Ballast were taken and sunk."

We have not heard of any material Captures made by the French Fleet except the Coventry and Blandford,

We have the Pleasure to acquaint you that the Fleet under Vice-Admiral Hughes arrived at Madras the 13th of April. The Admiral saw nothing of the French Fleet in the Passage, and it seems doubtful whether they were to the Northward or to the Southward. The Bristol and her Convoy arrived the 17th of April, and soon after the Company's Ship Duke of Athol had the Misfortune to blow up, by which a Number of Lives were lost. The Fairford was destroyed by Fire in this Harbour on the 5th Instant, as you will be advised by the Board. The Grand Army had marched to the Southward upon an Expedition against Cuddalore. The Fleet was at Madras the 30th of April, and,

we understand, was soon to proceed to the Southward, to co-operate with the Army against Cuddalore.

We are much concerned to acquaint you, that we have private Advice, that Lieutenant-General Sir Eyre Coote died at Madras the 26th of April, the Day after his Arrival from Bengal in the Resolution Country Ship.

*Copy of a Letter from Mr. Hutchinson to the Select Committee of the Court of Directors, &c.*

GENTLEMEN,

THE Honourable the President of Bombay having directed the Commander of the Viper Cutter, proceeding with Dispatches for Buffora, to touch here for Intelligence, I embrace the Opportunity of acquainting you with the most recent Occurrences in the Carnatic which have come to my Knowledge.

General Stuart, with a powerful Army, was before Cuddalore, when Information was received of a Treaty of Peace having been concluded at London the 9th of February between the belligerent Powers, in Consequence of which a Cessation of Hostilities immediately took place. It is imagined the Garrison must have shortly submitted, as we had succeeded in the Attack on their Lines, and had carried their Redoubts. In effecting this Service, a very heavy Loss was sustained on the Part of the British Forces, computed at 616 Europeans, and 336 Sepoys, killed, wounded, and missing. This happened on the 13th ult. On the 25th, the Enemy made a Sally from the Fort, and advanced close up to our Works, commencing and supporting the Assault with great Spirit and Intrepidity; but they were repulsed, with the Loss of about 200 Europeans, and their Colonel D'Aquitaine taken Prisoner.

On or about the 20th ult. there was an Engagement between the British and French Fleets near Pondicherry, but I do not learn any decisive Blow was struck by either Side. Monsieur Suffrein returned to Cuddalore, and Sir Edward Hughes is supposed to have stood on towards Madras, as it was reported he was in Want of Water, and his People were very sickly.

The Southern Army, acting in the Carnatic under the Command of Colonel Lang, had made an Irruption into the Coimbatore Country, subduing Caroor and Dindigul, when the Colonel was recalled to join the grand Army before Cuddalore, and Colonel Fullarton invested with the Command, who with great Spirit and Activity had pushed on to Darampore, which fell to him the 1st ult. He was then within six Days March only of Paliagacheri, towards which Place his further Progress was totally barred, by an Order from General Stuart to move back to Cuddalore. He is now on his Return again to the Coimbatore Country, strongly reinforced.

A Detachment of 300 Europeans, together with a Supply of Powder and Provisions, are sent from Madras to Mangulore in His Majesty's Ships Bristol and Isis. A further Reinforcement is destined for the same Part, with an Intention of enabling Colonel Campbell to take the Field, in Case it should be expedient.

No Accounts are yet received of the expected Fleet, which was to have left England in January last.

I have the Honour to be, with the greatest Respect,

Gentlemen,

Your faithful and obedient

Anjengo, 19th July,

humble Servant,

JOHN HUTCHINSON.

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