



SUPPLEMENT

TO

The London Gazette

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India-Board, April 18, 1818.

DISPATCHES have been received at the East India-House, addressed to the Secret Committee by the Governor in Council at Bombay, inclosing reports of the commencement and progress of hostilities between the British Government and the Peishwa, of which reports and dispatches the following are copies and extracts :

Extract from a Dispatch from the Honourable Mountstuart Elphinstone, the Resident at the Court of the Peishwa, to the Governor-General, dated, Camp at Kirky, November 6, 1817.

THE pressure of business for these several days, and the uncertainty of the result, have prevented my hitherto reporting to your Excellency; but as we are now in a state of war with the Peishwa, it is necessary to acquaint you with the manner in which the rupture was brought on, leaving all detail for a subsequent dispatch.

The great military preparation of His Highness the Peishwa, his distinct refusal to send any part of the force he had collected away from Poona, the threatening position he had occupied in the neighbourhood of our camp, and, above all, his unremitting endeavours to corrupt the fidelity of our native troops, rendered it absolutely necessary, in my judgment, to remove the brigade from the very bad position it occupied at the town to that selected for it by General Smith. This circumstance, and that of our cantonment being on the alert on the 29th, the night before the arrival of the European regiment, removed the appearance of confidence, which had, in some measure, been kept up between us and the Peishwa. This appearance had afforded no advantage, except that of protracting an open

rupture, for His Highness proceeded, in all respects, as if he were at open war, and all his subjects spoke of his declaring war against us, as an event in which nothing was uncertain but the time.

The effect of our withdrawing was to encourage the Peishwa's people, who plundered our cantonment without any obstruction from their own Government, and who talked openly of the impending destruction of our detachment. An Officer on his road to Bombay, was also attacked, wounded, and plundered, in open day, about two miles from Poona, and as far from the Residency; and the language of the Peishwa's Ministers was that of perfect estrangement and disregard. His Highness also continued to push his troops up towards ours, as if in defiance; it was announced, that he intended to form a camp between our old cantonment and our new position, and one thousand or one thousand five hundred horse moved for the purpose.

I renewed my assurances of our wish for peace, and said that if His Highness moved to his army I should withdraw to camp; that if he remained quiet or receded we should still consider him as a friend, and should be careful not to cross the river that separates our camp from the town, but that if his troops advanced towards ours we should be obliged to attack them. The Peishwa left the town and withdrew to Purbutta, and within less than an hour large bodies of troops began to move in the direction of our camp, and in such a manner as to cut off the Residency. I had withdrawn a company that had been left in the old cantonments, and as soon as it reached the Residency the detachment there marched off to camp, keeping a river between them and the Peishwa's troops, who were moving in the same direction. The Residency was immediately plundered and burned.