

might retreat to it. If to these natural means of defence are added, those which depend on government, such as a squadron of ships, and a body of land forces, an enemy would have the following obstacles to encounter.

First, a naval engagement. Secondly, supposing that the squadron should be beaten, it might nevertheless delay the conquerors in forcing them to the windward of the island. Thirdly, the difficulty of landing, as the coast cannot be attacked but on points, and never on an extensive front. Fourthly, the passage of every rivulet must produce a battle, with great disadvantage to the invader. Fifthly, the side on which the town can be besieged is of small extent, and, under a fire from the mountain that commands it, while the trenches must be opened in a rock. Sixthly, if the garrison were compelled to abandon the town, they would find on an height of the mountain, an impregnable redoubt, provided with water, where they might receive supplies and succour from the interior part of the island.

*Observations on the Isle of France, by the Abbé Raynal.*

"There are many mountains in the Isle of France, the highest of which has four hundred and twenty-four fathoms. Although the soil be, in all parts, covered with stones, of a greater or less size, so that it cannot be tilled with the plough, but must be worked with the spade, it is, nevertheless, fit for many purposes. Though more superficial, and less fertile than that of Bourbon, it is more generally susceptible of cultivation.

"This island for a long time engaged the speculation, rather than the industry, of its possessors: and they wasted their time in conjectures concerning the advantages which would be derived from it.

"Some were inclined to make a central mart of it for all Indian merchandize, which was to be brought thither on Indian bottoms, and then shipped on board French vessels, which were never to proceed farther. A twofold advantage evidently rose from this scheme: first, the expenses were lessened, as both the pay and the maintenance of Indian sailors is very trifling; and secondly, the ships crews were more effectually preserved, as they sometimes suffered greatly from the length of the voyage alone, and still more frequently from the climate, especially in Arabia and Bengal. This plan, however, met with no support; it was feared that the Company would fall into contempt, unless they displayed, in these distant latitudes, a naval force sufficient to ensure respect.

"Others, agreeable to a new system which engaged their attention, were of opinion, that the inhabitants of the Isle of France should be allowed to trade to India, which they had never yet been suffered to do. The supporters of this system maintained, that the proposed freedom would prove an abundant source of wealth to the colony, and consequently to the mother-country. But the island was then in want of both vessels and specie; it had no article for exportation, nor any means of consumption. For all these reasons the experiment proved unsuccessful; and it was resolved that the island should be entirely confined to agriculture.

"This new regulation gave rise to fresh mistakes. Men were sent from the mother-country to the colony, who neither understood husbandry, nor were accustomed to labour. The lands were distributed at a venture, and without distinguishing what was to be cleared from that which was already in a state for cultivation. Money was advanced to the planters, not in proportion to their industry, but to the interest they could make with the government. The Company, who got cent. per cent. upon the commodities the colony drew from Europe, and fifty per cent. upon those that were sent in from India, required that the produce of the country should be delivered into their warehouses, at a very low price. To complete the misfortunes of the colony, the Company, who had kept all the power in their own hands, broke the engagements they had entered into with their subjects, or rather with their slaves.

"Under such an administration no improvements could be expected. Discouragement threw most of the colonists into a state of inaction; those who had some share of industry remaining, were either in want of the means that lead to prosperity, or were not supported by that strength of mind which enables men to surmount the difficulties which always attend on new settlements. Those who had an opportunity of seeing and observing the agriculture of the Isle of France, found it little better than what they had seen among the savages.

"In 1764 the government took the colony under its own immediate controul. From that period to 1776 a population has been successively formed there of six thousand three hundred and eighty-six white men, including two thousand nine hundred and fifty-five soldiers, eleven hundred and ninety-nine free Negroes, and twenty-five thousand one hundred and fifty four slaves. The cattle on the island have also been increased to twenty-five thousand three hundred and sixty-seven.

"The coffee-tree has employed a considerable number of planters: but the hurricanes, that have succeeded each other with a fatal rapidity, have prevented, for some time, any advantage being derived from these plantations; and the government itself had endeavoured to check it, by the duties that have been laid on it at its going out of the island, and its entrance in France.

Three sugar-plantations have been established, and these are sufficient to supply the colony.

"No more than forty thousand weight of cotton has yet been gathered. This last commodity is of a good kind, and every thing promises an increase of it.

The camphire, the aloes, the cocoa-tree, the agallochum, the sago, the cardamom, the cinnamon tree, and many other vegetables, peculiar to Asia, have been naturalized in the island.

"Some iron mines had long been discovered, but it has been found necessary to abandon them, because they could not support the competition of those in Europe.

"It is well known that for these two hundred years, the Dutch have been enriching themselves by the sale of cloves and nutmegs: to secure to themselves the exclusive trade of these articles, they have destroyed or enslaved the nations that were in possession of those spices; and, lest the price of them should fall, even in their own hands, they have rooted up most of the trees, and have frequently burnt the fruit of those they had preserved.

"This barbarous avidity, which has so often excited the indignation of other nations, so strongly exasperated M. Poivre (who had travelled all over Asia as a naturalist and a philosopher), that he availed himself of the authority he was intrusted with in the Isle of France, and sent men into the least frequented parts of the Moluccas, to search for what avarice had for so long a time withholden from the rest of the world. The labours of those intrepid and sagacious navigators in whom he had confided, were crowned with success.

On the 27th of June, 1770, they brought to the Isle of France four hundred and fifty nutmeg and seventy clove trees, ten thousand nutmegs, either growing, or ready to grow, and a chest of cloves, several of which had shot forth. Two years after this another importation was made, much more considerable than the former.

"Some of these precious plants were carried to the islands of Seychelles, of Bourbon, and of Cayenne; but the greater part of them remained in the Isle of France; and all those which were distributed among private persons perished.

"The care of the botanists, and their constant attention, preserved, at first, in the king's garden, only fifty-eight nutmeg, and thirty-eight clove trees. In the month of October, 1775, two of the latter bore flowers, which were changed into fruit the next year.

"That which we have seen is small, dry, and meagre. If they are not improved by a long naturalization, the Dutch will only have had a false alarm, and will remain the masters of the spice trade.

"Sound policy has given another destination to the Isle of France. The quantity of corn there must be increased, and the crops of rice extended, by a more judicious distribution of the waters: it is equally important to attend to the multiplying of the cattle, and to the improvement of the breed.

"These objects, of the first necessity, were for a long time inconsiderable, although it was an easy matter to form pasturages, and the soil yielded twenty fold. Only a few years ago it was suggested to the government, to buy up, at a good price, all the grain which the planters might have to sell; and, at this period, the harvests were increased. If this plan be uninterruptedly followed, the colony will soon furnish provisions for its inhabitants, for the navigators that may frequent its roads, and for the armies and fleets which circumstances will, sooner or later, bring there. Then this island will be the bulwark of all the settlements which France possesses, or may one day acquire in the Indies: the centre of all military operations, offensive or defensive, which her interest will oblige her to undertake, or to sustain, in these distant regions.

"It is situated in the African sea, just at the entrance of the Indian ocean; and though very much elevated, its climate is temperate and wholesome. As it lies out of the common track, its expeditions can be carried on with greater secrecy. Those who wish it were nearer to our continent do not consider that if it were, it would be impossible to pass, in a short time, from its road, to the most distant gulfs of these regions, which is an inestimable advantage to a nation that has no sea-port in India.

"Great Britain sees, with a jealous eye, her rivals possessed of a settlement where the ruin of her property in Asia may be prepared. At the breaking out



of a war her utmost efforts will certainly be exerted against a colony that threatens her richest treasures. What a misfortune for France, should she suffer herself to be deprived of it!

" Yet what have we not to fear, when we see that to this day no care has been taken for the defence of this island? that the means for this purpose have always been wanting, or misapplied; that the court of Versailles, from year to year, has waited for the dispatches of the directors, to come to a determination on this point, just as one would wait for the return of a courier from the frontiers; and that even at the time we are writing, there is still perhaps a dispute, respecting the kind of protection which it is most expedient to adopt for a settlement of this importance.

" It is the general opinion of seamen, that the security of the Isle of France must depend entirely on the naval forces: but they acknowledge that these forces cannot fulfil this intention, till they have been sheltered from those hurricanes, so frequent and so terrible, which prevail in these latitudes from the month of December to April. A great number of merchantmen have, indeed, been lost, and whole squadrons have received so much injury, even in Port Louis, the only one to which seamen at present resort, that too much labour cannot be bestowed in guarding against these dreadful events. For a long time the government paid little attention to this important object: it has, however, at length determined to dig a large harbour in this road, in the hope that ships, of all dimensions, may one day find a safe asylum there.

" This business cannot be advanced with too much expedition; but supposing it executed with every possible success, the maritime force would still be insufficient for the defence of the colony. The state will never subject itself to the expence of maintaining constantly a stationary squadron in these latitudes; and it is possible that the island may be attacked in the absence of the fleet, which may also be destroyed by sickness or by a storm: let it be a strong or a weak one, it still runs the risk of being beaten; and even if it were victorious, an opportunity may have been seized of landing troops during the action. These troops would immediately march on to the port, and make themselves masters of it, as well as of the victorious ships, which might have taken shelter there, in order to refit.

" By this manœuvre, which is a very simple one, a valuable settlement would fall, without striking a blow, into the hands of an enterprising and skilful enemy. These apprehensions, which are well founded, argue the necessity of fortifications.

"Some engineers have imagined, that batteries, judiciously disposed along the coast, would be sufficient to prevent the besiegers from landing; but it has been since ascertained, that the island is accessible to boats in the greatest part of its circumference, and that even, in several places, a descent could be effected by force, under the protection of the men of war; this plan, therefore, has been relinquished. It has been understood, that there would be an infinite number of posts to fortify; that the expences would be endless; that too many troops would be wanted; and that the distribution of them would leave every point exposed to the consequence of a landing, executed suddenly, or by surprise.

"The idea of a war of posts has not been thought a more fortunate one. The Isle of France, notwithstanding the advantage of posts, will never collect a sufficient body of troops to resist those which the enemy may bring there. The persons who have proposed this idea, have laid a stress upon the assistance to be obtained from the colonists and the slaves; but they have been obliged at length to acknowledge, that this multitude, which might possibly be of use behind good ramparts, could be of little or no service in the open field.

"The project of building and fortifying a town in the inland parts, has long since had its partizans. Such an establishment appeared to them to be calculated to keep the besiegers at a distance from the centre of the colony, and to force them, in time, to relinquish any advantage which they might have gained at first: they would not be convinced that, without any movement on the part of the enemy, who was already become master of the ports, and the coasts, the garrison, deprived of every external communication, would soon be reduced to the necessity of surrendering at discretion, or of perishing with famine; and, even if the enemy were to do nothing more than fill up the roads, and destroy the arsenals, magazines, and public edifices, would not their principal object be fulfilled? of what concern could it be then to them, that there should be a fortress and a garrison in the midst of an island, incapable of giving them any uneasiness, or of exciting their future jealousy?

"After so many various and uncertain opinions, the government begins to be convinced, that the only method of defending the colony is to provide for the security of its two ports; to establish an internal communication between them, that shall facilitate a ready distribution of the forces, according to the designs of the enemy, and make the succours which might arrive from without, by one or other of its roads, common to both parts.

" Port Bourbon, where the Dutch had formed their settlement, and Port Louis, the only one to which the French resort, had not hitherto appeared capable of being fortified; the first on account of its vast extent, the latter on account of the irregular heights which surround it. But the Chevalier d'Arçon has proposed a plan which has removed all these difficulties, and, after the fullest discussion, has obtained the approbation of those who are the best acquainted with the important art of defence. The expences attending the execution of this great project have been rigidly calculated, and it is affirmed that they will not be considerable.

" But what number of troops will be wanted to defend these fortifications? The skilful engineer usually requires but few. He is well aware, that if many were to be sent, they would soon become effeminate from the heat of the climate, be corrupted by the desire of gain, be ruined by debauchery, and enervated by idleness. Accordingly he has reduced them, in time of peace, to two thousand men, who will be easily restrained, exercised, and disciplined. This number appears to him sufficient to resist any sudden or unexpected attack that might fall on the colony. If it were threatened with extraordinary danger from great preparations, a minister, attentive to the storms that are gathering, would have time to send over the forces necessary to defend it, or to act in Indostan, according to circumstances.

" Some persons still disapprove of these views. The Isle of France is an annual expence to the state of eight millions of livres.\* This expence, which will scarce admit of any reduction, excites the indignation of many good citizens. Their wish is that this settlement should be abandoned, as well as Bourbon, which is only a burthensome appendage to it.

" This, indeed, would be the scheme most expedient to be adopted, if we considered only the languishing trade now carried on by the French in India: but political speculations reach beyond this object. It is foreseen that if this resolution were adopted, the English would drive all foreign nations from the Asiatic seas; that they would appropriate to themselves all the riches of these extensive regions; and that so many powerful resources united in their hands, would give them a dangerous influence in Europe. These considerations ought still more fully to convince the court of Versailles of the necessity of fortifying the Isle of France; at the same time taking the most effectual precautions not to be imposed upon by the agents chosen to carry this point into execution."

\* L.333,333 6s. 8d.

*An Account of the Isle of France, by Captain Munro.*

" Our ship approached the Isle of France towards the south-east, so that before we arrived at Port Louis I had the satisfaction of coasting more than one half of the island, by which I had an opportunity of gaining a particular knowledge of the different bays through which we passed, and of forming some conjectures upon the defence of which this important island is susceptible. The French have judiciously chosen this settlement as the chief residence of their Eastern government, for it is to them what Batavia is to the Dutch. The Mauritius resembles, though it is somewhat longer than the Isle of Wight.\* The middle of this island is formed of mountains of rocks, which, in proportion as they advance towards the sea, diminish in a very picturesque manner, leaving between them vallies of some extent, which are well watered, and covered with wood. A continual moisture reigns on the summit of the mountains, which, upon several of them, and particularly in the vallies, renders the verdure as fine as it is abundant. The northern quarter being much more level than the other parts, seems to be well inhabited. Here the wealthy inhabitants of Port Louis have their country houses: their cattle principally graze on the east coast, the water and pasturage being better there, and in greater abundance, than in any other quarter.

" Our ship, although with a fair wind, was twelve hours in its passage from Isle Rodriguez to the bay of Port Louis.† Several small islands full of rocks run obliquely from north to west along the coast of Mauritius, at the distance of about from two to seven leagues from the main land, among which there are so many whales which were so bold, that I often expected some of them, as we ran along the coast, would leap on board.

" The Isle of France is far from appearing so impregnable as it is generally

\* The Isle of France is five times more extensive than the Isle of Wight. This error, if it can be called so, in Captain Munro, is very excusable. It does not at first sight admit of that common geometrical measure. He did not live long enough in the island to perform such operations, and as a stranger, and particularly an Englishman, this verification must have been impossible for him. I have only made this observation in order that the reader may not fall into any uncertainty or error. See the observations of M. de la Caille.

† Isle Rodriguez is one hundred leagues, or three hundred miles, distant from the Isle of France.



reported to be. The shore, in many parts, is high and rocky, but there are several flats, very convenient for landing, along the coasts, and where the sea is deep enough to admit of the approach of frigates to cover a landing, although they are defended by strong batteries. Our ship, which carried six hundred tons, drew near enough to the shore to make her guns bear with advantage.

“Port Louis is situated at the bottom of a triangular bay. There is a good dock-yard here, and a port capable of containing two hundred vessels. The French practised the farce of sending a pilot to steer loaded vessels along the channel for the two last miles, between two rows of white flags, regularly placed, as if it were the only practicable spot of it: but I have seen vessels of a considerable burthen going within and without those flags at pleasure, and the wind frequently blowing in all directions.

“The town is large, and the houses, principally built of wood, form one continued street, about a mile and a half long; it has more resemblance to an European town, than any other I have seen on this side of the Cape, as well for its bustling commerce, as in the agreeable appearance of its inhabitants; while the women, who are very numerous, are remarkably handsome and engaging in their manners, and possess, as it is generally believed, all the gallantry of their mother-country. I was treated here with the greatest civility, and particularly by the Governor, who granted me permission to walk wherever I pleased.

“I think it is very much to be regretted that the British government, in the last war, did not direct its first efforts against this island: a well-directed blow against the root of the tree would have caused all its branches to fall. It would have been the most certain and quickest method of subduing the French power in this quarter of the globe. Had this measure been adopted, the English would not only have been able to overthrow Hyder Ali, but even to give a good account of the Dutch and Spanish settlements in the East Indies.

“The principal inhabitants of this island laugh at our not having sent, in the beginning of the war, Sir Edward Hughes's squadron to attack it on his way to Madras. One of the most respectable persons of the town frankly assured me they were much afraid of it, and that the island was in such a sad state of defence, that, anticipating this event, they had already begun to think of the articles of capitulation. The Isles of France and Bourbon would infallibly have fallen into our hands; for at this time scarcely any works of defence had been raised, and there were not

beyond five hundred European regular troops in the two islands. I doubt not but the French will take care for the future not to be surprised in such a weak state.

"With all the deference due to those who formed the plan of the unsuccessful expedition under Commodore Johnstone, it will not be amiss to observe, that if the attack of the Isle of France had been the object of it, it might then have been conquered by an attack prudently directed; which would have been a surer source of glory for those who had undertaken it, and for the nation in general, than even the battle of Porta Praya, or the taking of the Cape of Good Hope. It may be considered as presumption in me to give my opinion on a subject of such importance; but as I write in the confidence of friendship, and after having attentively examined the matter, I think my observations will not be totally useless. I am at present so perfectly convinced of the inutility of any attempt to overthrow the French power in the Indies without first reducing the Isles of France and Bourbon, that were another war to break out between the two rival nations I should humbly and strongly recommend, to the government of Great Britain, not to lose time in making a vigorous attack upon these islands, as the most efficacious and quickest means in gaining our object; such an expedition would perhaps be accompanied with some loss, but it would fall far short of that which a lengthened and perhaps unfortunate war would occasion.

"It would not perhaps be a very difficult thing for some men of war and frigates stationed between the Isles of France, Bourbon, and Madagascar, with two cruisers fixed to the south-east, and two others to the south-west, or to windward of the island, to reduce Port Louis by famine in a short space of time; the troops to be sent should be Europeans, or Sepoys sent from Madras, or Europeans from England itself. I think that four thousand Europeans alone, or two thousand Europeans and four thousand Sepoys, with a just proportion of ships of war, would completely effectuate this enterprize.

"The works at the two extremities of the town of Port Louis being very open and extensive, the enemy's forces might be very much divided by landing an equal number of troops on each side of the port, who, however, ought to pay great attention to act in concert, by means of well-directed signals, as well by day as by night, in case of a projected attack or any other movement of the enemy. At the same time two men of war, with several gun-boats or fire-ships, placed at the opening of the port, might hold themselves in readiness, if the enemy threatened a serious

attack, to throw red-hot balls into the town; or if the wind happened to blow hard at the time from the north-west, to send a fire-ship among them, in which a kind of wooden mortars charged with bombs\* might be made in such a manner as when the deck caught fire to cast the shells with a short fusee into the town. Some ships of war could lay at anchor at the distance of an hundred fathoms from the little island to the east of the port, called the *Isle des Tonnelliers*, at the east and west side of the town, covering two fordable rivers, the one called *des Lataniers*, and the other *la Petite rivière*, near *Fort Blanc*. Several brooks of this kind descend from the mountains in every direction, and the places, where they empty themselves into the sea, are the most convenient points to pass between the ridges of rocks which are said to guard the coasts; and when the boats have once passed them the water becomes perfectly calm in several parts of the shore. I was informed that vessels of two hundred tons were building in the river *des Citronniers*, at the south-east point of the island. At post *Jacotet*, near this river, an arm of the sea enters in the land, and forms a large bason, where smaller vessels can approach the shore with the greatest security. Here I should propose the first descent to be made with two hundred Europeans and six hundred Sepoys, without artillery; this spot being the most retired of the island, as well as the most convenient for making a junction with the Maroon Negroes, who generally live in this neighbourhood. The end of April is the most suitable season, when the monsoons are over; the winds then become variable, and the winter provisions of the inhabitants are almost exhausted: the detachment, thus landed, should receive orders upon being reinforced by the Maroon Negroes, or by people on whose intelligence they could rely, to form into two divisions, and to advance towards Port Louis on each side of the coast; the interior parts being totally inaccessible, in order to carry off the cattle they might find in the vallies; whilst the rest of the troops and the ships should be formed also into two divisions, running to windward of the island with the utmost expedition, and effect a landing at each point of the town, as was before proposed: by this means the enemy's forces would be greatly divided, and their forage completely cut off; which, as is reasonable to suppose, would soon force the town to capitulate. But even if the island could not

\* During the siege of Wandewash, Captain Flint, who made such a noble defence of the place, constructed mortars of wood surrounded with iron hoops, which perfectly answered his purpose. This excellent officer likewise invented grenades of dried potters' earth, which he filled and threw into the enemy's works with great effect.—Captain MUNRO.

be effectually subdued; a fleet that should attack the Mauritius, on its way to the Indies, might cause essential injury to the French in that part of the world.

"This is all that can be said on a project, which, at the moment, may appear chimerical; but in the course of a future war, it may, perhaps, be thought worthy of attention, and lay the foundation of an important acquisition to the British crown."



## CHAPTER XXIX.

*Observations on the Isle of France, by M. de Cossigny.\**

“ON approaching the Isle of France, you must keep to windward, because the port, which is frequented by the larger vessels, is to leeward: when the wind is not violent, the air is embalmed with the perfumes of flowers with which the trees of the island are covered. The same odours are perceived along the island of Ceylon, when the winds blow from the land. This effect was falsely attributed to the cinnamon tree, which forms a part of the forests of this island, as its flowers have a fetid smell. The effluvia from the land are carried by the winds very far to sea; and sometimes produce very sudden and unexpected effects. I saw one of this kind, which is not very uncommon. A German soldier, a passenger on board of our vessel, about seven or eight and twenty years old, died suddenly in sight of the little isle of Rodriguez, and about a hundred leagues distant from the Isle of France. He had some slight symptoms of the scurvy, but he was not on the sick list, nor did he appear to have any unfavourable symptoms.

“It belongs, in the first place, to the physician to inform us of the necessary preservative against such an attack; but were an unprofessional person permitted to give his opinion in so important a matter, I should be inclined to think that a slight purge administered to such as were afflicted with the scurvy, some days before they come in sight of land: the daily use of smoking, of coffee, and a mucilaginous phytisan, sweetened with sugar or honey, with moderate use of spirits of geneva, fumigations, and general exercise, but repeated several times in the day, might prevent the effects of such a revolution in the human frame as has been just mentioned.

“The Isle of France, from its two ports, the one to windward, and the other to leeward, of the island, though they have hitherto been too much neglected, will become the mother of the colonies which France ought to establish in the East Indies, if she is anxious to increase her commerce and her power.

\* M. de Cossigny was Governor of the Isle of France in the year 1791; and is a man full of knowledge and philanthropy. See his *Voyage à Canton*, printed at Paris in the year 1799.

\* This colony, which was originally settled in 1722, is not yet arrived to that degree of strength to which there is every reason to presume that it will one day attain. Its soil, which is in general fertile and ferruginous, seems to have been formed from the ruins of a volcano, at a very remote period. Lava is to be met with almost every where, and I had, on my estate, a bed of volcanic ashes.\*

"The whole land was covered with fine trees, among which there were many fit for building, in a profusion that proves the fertility of the soil. Two successive harvests in the course of the year, confirm its claim to that character.

"The most useful vegetables of the four quarters of the world, have been collected in the national garden, which, for these seven and twenty years past, have been under the direction of M. Céré. In doing justice to the zeal, intelligence, and activity of this excellent person, I do no more than repeat the merited eulogiums which the public voice has lavished on him.

"Among the valuable and most useful vegetables that are here cultivated, I shall only mention the Sagoutier, and Rima, or bread-tree. The former is a very high and bushy palm, the fruit of which grows along several pending stems: nothing is collected from it, but as soon as the tree has borne its fruit it dies: then the sap, which is very abundant and mucilaginous, dries, and is formed into meal, that is easily separated from the wood, which is full of pores. But while the cultivation of the Sagoutier is confined to the national garden of the Isle of France, and to those of the curious, it will never be of any use to the colony. It would be necessary then to multiply them on the mountains, and in the forests of the island: the cultivation of it should likewise be encouraged in Madagascar, where it is indigenous. The inhabitants of the north and west call it Sagou; by those of the east, it is named Moufia and Rafia. With the leaves of this palm-tree, divided into very fine threads, the natives, shew their dexterity and skill in weaving the *pagnes*.

"The bread-tree, or Rima, which is cultivated in the Isle of France, bears a very prolific fruit, whose seeds rise into a rapid growth: they resemble the chesnut both in appearance and taste. But the bread-tree, which is the most esteemed, is that whose fruit is not prolific; that is, which does not contain seed, but a fleshy pulp, proper for the nourishment of man. I know not whether this difference is the work

\* The reader will here remark, that M. de Cossigny, in this respect, differs entirely in opinion with the Academician le Gentil. I will not take upon myself to decide the question.

of nature, or of art. In the first case, it is probable, that, by multiplying the individuals of the Rima from its seeds, there may be some that bear unprolific fruits: they may therefore be multiplied by the suckers, slips, and grafts. Above all, the Rima should be transplanted and multiplied in Madagascar: the soil and temperature there agrees with it better than those of our two islands, and it would be a wise measure to form a botanical garden in this great island, as well for the utility of the inhabitants, as for the supply of those navigators that put in there, and consequently to increase the general purposes of commerce.

"The Isle of France was formerly exposed to the ravages of locusts. None of these noxious insects, however, have been seen here since the year 1770. It is pretended, that the martins, a kind of bird brought here from India, and which have multiplied in a very extraordinary manner, have destroyed them. It is certain that these birds feed upon them with avidity, when they are just produced, and before they have wings.

"This colony, considered as an anchoring place, is well situated for the commerce of the East Indies. It furnishes the ships with all kinds of refreshments and provisions, and the means of recovering their crews; the air is healthy and water excellent. Considered as a port, it furnishes a shelter for the ships, with every necessary accommodation to careen, refit, and equip them: it might, in this respect, become an entrepôt for the commerce of the East Indies. This was the project of M. de la Bourdonnais. Considered in an agricultural view, it would furnish commerce with valuable objects of exportation, such as sugar, coffee, cotton, indigo, fine spices, &c. As a military station, it can maintain in its bosom a large number of land and sea forces.

"As I do not propose to write the history of the Isle of France, which is not within the compass of my design, but merely to give a general idea of it, I shall conclude, by citing an extract from a work which was printed in the island in 1784, in order to refute the false assertions of an ignorant author, who had, in his writing, attempted to depreciate the colony.\*

"Fortunately for these islands, the dreams of a traveller, who saw and observed every thing without reflection; who examined nothing to the bottom; who sometimes contradicts himself; is almost always incorrect, and often false in his assertions, and erroneous in his reasoning, cannot have any weight with persons of

\* M. de Cossigny speaks here of M. Saunierat.

understanding and information. So far I have opposed facts, discussions, and authorities, to the assertions and decisions of the author whose opinions I have combated. It is, therefore, only left for me to draw those conclusions, which may be considered as so many opinions given, in direct opposition to his assertions.

"I accordingly declare it to be my opinion, that the Isle of France will one day astonish Europe and Asia by its riches, the variety and abundance of its productions, and the resources of its numerous population: in the course of time, it will have very great influence on the commerce of Europe in the Indies, and incalculably extend the advantages of the nation who possesses it, in that quarter of the globe. A colony whose soil is fertile, the air healthy, and whose position is so fortunate, both for the operations of commerce and the plans of policy, must necessarily arise from its present state of mediocrity. It has not as yet acquired all that a sagacious minister, a wise administration, a constant and well directed labour of the colonists, and time, the operations of which perfects every thing, may procure it. Nature had clothed its soil with extensive forests, but industry and patriotism have collected here the greatest part of the useful productions of hot countries, as well as many of the natives of temperate climates, which flourish with luxuriance; so that, at present, it has more useful plants collected than any other part of the known world. M. Saunerat misrepresented this isle, without being sufficiently acquainted with it, and has slandered its inhabitants without knowing them.

"M. de la Bourdonnais, that great man, whom history already mentions with the eulogiums which he so well deserves, that great general, mariner, administrator, merchant, and agriculturist, entertained very different opinions; his knowledge of it was the result of several years passed in the government of it, and to him it is indebted for the sources of its prosperity: he considered the Isle of France as the key of the Indian commerce of his nation, as the bulwark of its settlements in Asia, and as the means of future conquests: he did more,—he proved the exactness of his last views, by keeping the English fleet from the coast of Coromandel, and by besieging and taking Madras. His object was to make the Isle of France the entrepôt of the Indian commerce of France, and as a place of arms for its land and sea forces. His idea was to make it an agricultural, commercial, and military settlement.

Let us add another respectable authority. "Were it not for the Isle of France," says the author of the *Philosophical History*, "the French settlements in India could not be protected." He also adds, "that the Isle of France will always be



ready to give assistance to Pondicherry, or to act offensively, according as circumstances may require. Indeed every thing may be expected from the Isle of France, when it shall have gained that degree of prosperity to which it must one day arrive, when its cultivation shall be more extended, and its population more numerous.

"Although the colony has undergone, in 1792 and 1793, for the fourth time since its foundation, the destructive scourge of the small-pox, which has retarded its progress and diminished its forces; although it has been, as it were, abandoned to itself since the revolution, the English have not thought proper to direct their attacks against it; they preferred the conquests of the Dutch settlements: they, however, are deeply interested in rendering themselves masters of it, in order to secure the power in Indostan, their new conquests, and their commerce, which this island interrupted by its privateers.

"'Policy,' says the Abbé Raynal, 'foresees that if the Isle of France were abandoned, the English would drive all foreign nations out of the seas of Asia, and would possess themselves of all the riches of these vast countries.'

"Asses of Mascate have been transported hither; they are of a very fine and large species, and extremely useful, both for draught and burthen.

"Although the greatest part of the houses are of wood, and generally have but a ground floor, they are nevertheless convenient and agreeable. Almost all the streets are in a straight line, and many of them are planted with trees. The air here is very healthy, but is cooler in the country, which is cheerful, pleasant, and well cultivated. The forests are stocked with many kinds of very fine indigenous trees, the wood of which is employed for building and repairing of vessels, as well as for many necessary purposes.

"The ordinary coffee, known in Europe by the name of Bourbon coffee, is the only coffee cultivated, upon an extensive plan, in the two islands; some of the inhabitants, through curiosity, cultivate two kinds of coffee, to which they give the name of Eden or Ouden, the berry of which is exceeding small, though it is much superior to the other, and even to that of Moka; but the plant bears little, is very delicate, and subject to perish: I wished to form a plantation of it, but could not succeed. There are in the forests of the island, towards the quarter of *Poudre-d'Or*, Maroon coffee plants, so called because they are indigenous, and grow without care or cultivation; they are common in the forests of the Isle of Bourbon. the bean is longer than that of the ordinary coffee; it is pointed at one of the

extremities, and appeared to me have as fine an odour as the cultivated coffee, but of a more bitter flavour.

"In other parts of the island there is a fourth kind of coffee, which is not generally known. The plant is indigenous, and grows as high as the forest trees: its stem is slender, its leaves are long, broad, thick, of a dark green above, and somewhat paler beneath; the flowers grow in bunches at the extremity of the branches; they are white, and without smell, with five petals, and a white cup divided into five parts. The fruit, which in its early state is green, is round, but inclined to an oval, somewhat less than the cherry of the ordinary coffee; it whitens as it ripens, and becomes brown in drying; the pulp, which is white, is doughy, and of a sweetish taste; it generally envelopes two very small hemispheric berries, which are covered with a brown pellicule, having a tough coat; they are grey, and somewhat pointed at one of the extremities. I made several persons taste it, who all found it of an agreeable flavour. My design was to form some plantations of it, on the presumption that cultivation, the open air, and the sun, would impregnate it with new and better qualities; but circumstances having determined me to quit the colony, I did not execute my design. This kind of coffee is to be met with in the environs of Palma, and even in the neighbourhood of the Reduit.\* I think it superior to that of Moka; and my opinion was confirmed by all who tasted it.

"It is usual, in the Isles of France and Bourbon, to dry the coffee cherry, and afterwards pound it, in order to take away the envelopes of the bean, according to the method of the Arabs of Yemen.

"I caused a water-mill to be built upon my plantation, which turns one millstone over another that is immoveable. The coffee in the shell falls of itself from the loft, which is above, between two millstones, and the necessary process is performed without the labour of hands. Nothing more was to be done but to separate the berries by winnowing, and to take away those that were spoiled or bruised."

\* The country-house of the Governor of Mauritius.

## CHAPTER XXX.

*Conclusion.—Abstracts of Events that have happened at Mauritius, up to the Year 1800.*

SINCE my father's correspondence with the islands came to a termination, I have been too much occupied with my own immediate concerns, to give a particular attention to the succeeding course of events connected with them, even when it was most in my power, during my residence at Paris: the Revolution soon followed, and the means of communication, as may well be imagined, in a great measure, if not altogether, failed me. The memoirs which I shall now present to my readers are the fruits of my *later collections and researches*: they bring the history down to the time that is passing by us; and this Volume will, I trust, be, at length, found to contain every event and circumstance that is necessary to give the most perfect knowledge of the Isles of France and Bourbon. But before I resume the subject, it will not, I flatter myself, be considered as presumptuous in me, nor be altogether uninteresting to my readers, if I give a very brief account of the tranquil and exemplary manner in which Baron Grant passed the latter years of his valuable life.

Disinterested in all his proceedings, as he was unassuming in his nature, he engaged in those pursuits, as a liberal occupation and rational amusement, which so many others have followed to gratify their ambition, and feed their avarice. With the power of making a great fortune, he did not acquire, in the long progress of twenty years, the third part of what others have obtained in as many months. But he fulfilled his object, which was to remove himself far away from the misfortunes that had overwhelmed his family, with so many others, by the catastrophe of the famous Law, so well known throughout Europe. He, therefore, went in search of that tranquillity, and of those resources which he had a right to expect, by joining his father's brother, in the Isle of France; that uncle, who, by too much confidence in others, and his own rigid integrity, had involved his brothers and nephews in his own misfortunes:\* he who invited my father to come and reside with him, to console and

\* I allude to those occasioned by the failure of Law, &c.

support his afflictions and disappointments, by affording him a quiet and secure asylum, as well as a share in that fortune which had been acquired by a part of what had been saved from their common ruin.

The Baron Grant was content to enjoy these advantages, at the same time that he continued in the service of his country; for the sale of his property on quitting the Isle of France, produced only a few thousand pounds sterling: one half of which was taken from him on his passage to France. What he saved was employed by him to discharge the claims on the only estate which now remained of the ancient patrimony of his family.\*

On his departure from France, being only of the second branch of his family, (as the head of the first lived as long as himself, and died, without issue, in the same year with him), and not being in possession of any estate, as his father was yet alive, he thought himself fortunate in obtaining one, such as it was, among the Antipodes. At the same time his marriage with Mademoiselle de Grenville, in 1746, attached him to it. But notwithstanding the loss which he sustained, and the misfortunes that afflicted him in his residence in the Isle of France, and on his return to Europe, he was disposed to forget them all, on arriving in his native country, and returning to his native home, after all the dangers which he had risked, and the troubles that he had suffered.

Being at length settled on his own domain, he was truly sensible of the happiness that is to be found by living with persons who, by near relation and consanguinity, are formed to interest, in the tenderest manner, those minds which are susceptible of refined impressions. He accordingly occupied himself in the education of his children, as well as in cheering the age, and, as much as depended on him, in prolonging the life, of a most excellent mother, who died in his arms, at the very advanced age of ninety-two, twenty years after his return to France.

But his attentions and regard were not confined to his domestic concerns and the care of his family. He had learned, in the office of Justice of the Peace, which he had exercised in the Isle of France, how to conciliate the interests of men; and necessity, as well as humanity, had induced him to acquire a knowledge of medicine; so that he was equally qualified to assist his tenants, his neighbours, and his friends, in their moral and physical infirmities; nor did he ever hesitate to employ these venerable functions, or refuse the time and expence which they required of him.

\* The estate of Vaux, in Normandy.



These are not the vain eulogiums or empty flattery of a son, anxious to consecrate the memory of his father; on the contrary, he feels himself restrained, by the modesty that becomes him, from rendering all the justice that is due to his virtues and eminent qualities, and which all who knew him were ever anxious to applaud and testify.

Having passed the latter years of his life in these useful, virtuous, and respectable occupations, he resigned it, in religious confidence, to the Supreme Being, in the month of June, 1784, and in the seventy-fourth year of his age.

*Abstract of Events that have happened in the Isle of France, up to the  
Year 1800.*

The succour which Admiral Suffrein had constantly received from the Isles of France and Bourbon, in repairing and victualling the ships of his squadron during the whole course of the American war, had fixed the attention of the French government; and on the peace of 1783, they were seriously occupied about these islands. The languid state in which they had remained during the time they had been under the dominion and protection of the French East India Company, served as a lesson for the Ministers of France: they availed themselves of it in order to preserve them from falling into the same state, when, in 1784, they established a new East India Company.

These islands therefore enjoyed the advantage of receiving into their ports all the merchant ships of France, which were not allowed to proceed farther, on account of the rights of the Company, whilst they were allowed the privilege of trading to all parts of India, China alone excepted. The Company were also engaged to furnish directly and annually to these islands the merchandize of Europe necessary for their consumption.

By this order of things the Isle of France became the centre of that commerce which several French merchants carried on in the Indies, by establishing their factories in it, and the commerce of this colony accordingly became both active and of great extent. The population suddenly increased beyond its means of cultivation, and the Isle of France became a commercial entrepôt rather than an agricultural colony.

But the power which the governor and the Intendant of this colony enjoyed had been exercised in such an arbitrary manner, that several of its inhabitants became

anxious to free themselves from it; and the distance of the mother-country increased their impatience to know the events of the French revolution, which began in 1789. The colony was then governed by Lieutenant-general Conway. The Intendant, M. Dupuy, formerly counsellor of the Chatelet at Paris, amiable in his manners, and possessing a superior capacity, succeeded, by his mild conduct and vigorous policy, to conciliate the confidence and friendship of the colony; M. de Macnamara commanded the marines. In the last war he had gained, as he well deserved, the reputation of a brave and skilful officer, and was decidedly against the revolution.

A vessel which sailed from Bourdeaux at the end of October, 1789, and arrived at the Isle of France at the end of January following, brought the news of the great power the National Assembly had usurped to itself. The captain of the vessel, officers, and ship's crew wore the three-coloured cockade. On their landing with this revolutionary signal, and relating the late occurrences that had taken place in France, the flames of revolutionary conflagration instantly burst forth in all parts of the colony, and the cockade was very generally adopted. Some young men of the town, wishing to avail themselves of this moment of effervescence, posted up advertisements in the streets, inviting all the *citizens* to form themselves into primary assemblies, after the example of those which had taken place in all the communes of France, in order to draw up memorials of demands and complaints.

General Conway, the Governor, perceiving that the principles of the French revolution had infected the people, determined to oppose it by his authority. He accordingly sent some soldiers to arrest the young men who had posted up the advertisement, and went to the Intendant's house, to consult with him on the occasion. But the people had been collected in the square, and the young men whom the Governor-general had just caused to be arrested, happening to pass at that moment to prison, they were set at liberty by the multitude, who went immediately to the Intendant's house, and compelled M. Conway himself to accept of the national cockade.

On the following day the inhabitants of the town united in a primary assembly, after the example of France, and established the different constituted authorities, to whom they confided the interior government of the colony.

1790. M. de Macnamara, Commandant of the French marine in the Indian seas, arriving at the Isle of France during this state of perturbation, could not

conceal his aversion to their revolutionary proceedings. The soldiers of the 107th and 108th regiments, who formed the garrison of the island, following the example of the army in France, had abandoned themselves to the cause of the revolutionists. M. de Macnamara, however, thought it his duty to give an account of it to the minister of marine, but he was betrayed; a copy of his letter was sent to the barracks, and incited the soldiers to threaten him with their vengeance. The grenadiers therefore collected themselves in a body to go to the port, in order to seize upon all the boats and canoes they might find there, that they might go on board M. de Macnamara's ship.

Being informed, however, of the preparations that were making to seize his person, he had made ready his cannon, but at the moment when the grenadiers presented themselves to mount on board, his sailors refused to defend him, and he was left to the discretion of these furious men, who conducted him on shore, and led him as their prisoner before the first constituted authority of the colony, then sitting in the church, and loudly demanded that he should be punished.

The fermentation of the soldiers had risen to such a pitch, that it was not possible to appease it; so that the members of this constituted authority found it necessary to make M. de Macnamara undergo several interrogatories, and to send him to prison for his own security; with the hope that they should thereby appease the fury of the soldiers, who unfortunately resolved to conduct him thither. In his way to confinement, M. de Macnamara passing before the door of a watchmaker of his acquaintance, conceived some hopes of escaping from the midst of these furious people, that escorted him. With this design he rushed in at the door, which was open, flattering himself that by using his pistols which he had in his pocket, he should intimidate those that dared to follow him; but his threats only increased the rage of the soldiers, who threw themselves in a crowd upon him and murdered him, giving to the Isle of France an horrible example, the remembrance of which still makes them shudder with indignation. The inhabitants were distressed and humiliated at seeing their country, till then unspotted with any crime, stained with such a bloody outrage. It was, however, the only one that happened during the whole course of the revolution; whilst France itself and all its other colonies have been inundated with the blood of so many victims to democratic injustice and barbarity.

1791. M. de Conway then resolved to set out for France, and was replaced in the interval by M. de Cossigny, who commanded at the Isle of Bourbon.

1792. M. de Malartic, named likewise by the King as Governor-general, arrived at the Isle of France in June, 1792. The colonies were then governed by their particular Colonial Assemblies, whose decrees had the force of law, when they had received the sanction of the governor, who represented the state.

He had, moreover, the command of the military force, and the regulation of the interior department.

The Intendant was charged with the administration of the finances.

1793. When the news of the power of the Jacobins in France was brought to this island, the Jacobin club was established, which was called the *Cbaumiere*.

In 1794, the *Cbaumiere* club soon rivalled the constituted authorities. The members of this club of the Isle of France forced M. de Malartic to grant them a sloop to convey one of their detachments of about one hundred men to the Isle of Bourbon, in order to arrest M. Duplessis Vigoureux, the Governor; M. Fayol, the Civil Commissary; and M. de St. Felix, formerly Commandant of the Marine, on the pretext that they corresponded with the English. They executed their design, and brought these three prisoners away on board the sloop. On their arrival at the Isle of France they were landed under an escort from this detachment, and were conducted to the *Cbaumiere*. The president, who was formerly a police officer, said gravely to them, "the people accuse you, and the people will judge you." They were then conducted to the dungeon, where they were fettered, and they remained there about six months.

The *Cbaumiere*, in the mean time, fixed up a guillotine in the public place, in expectation of making use of it against these victims of their suspicions.

The Colonial Assembly, better composed, succeeded in putting a stop to the effervescence of the Jacobins, by ordering that these prisoners should be judged only by a court martial, named by all the citizens of the colony, united in primary assemblies, each in its own district. This method occasioned a delay that gave them time to concert together, in order to contrive that the choice of members of the commission might fall upon upright persons, and this design was crowned with success.

At this moment an account arrived of the decree abolishing slavery in all the settlements of the French Republic. This news, which so deeply interested the inhabitants of the colony, operated a great change in their opinion concerning the



revolution; and from that moment the Jacobins of the island were composed only of bad men, who had no other object than to disturb the government. The military commission nominated for judging the prisoners, found no difficulty in dissolving itself, by objecting to the mode of its institution.

The news of the downfall of Robespierre, and of the Jacobin clubs in France, being then brought to the colony, the Colonial Assembly, already strong from the change that had taken place in the public mind, freed itself from the yoke of the *Cbaumiere*, by causing the different Jacobin leaders to be arrested, and shutting up the place of their meeting. The guillotine was taken away from the public square, and the prisoners were set at liberty without having undergone any trial, for which there were no solid grounds, in the general opinion of the colony.

The principal Jacobins, to the number of thirty, who had been arrested, were immediately sent to France.

1795. The information the colony had acquired respecting the decree that gave freedom to the Negroes, kept it in the greatest anxiety, on account of its attachment to France, as well as the certainty of the misfortunes which such a measure would occasion, the moment it was put in execution. The events of St. Domingo presented a most frightful picture of the consequences resulting from it.

The planters, who are the greatest proprietors of Negroes, were alarmed at their situation, as they well knew that their existence was but precarious while the decree remained disannulled; and perhaps they entertained the opinion that they should be happier if they belonged to a government that would protect their property. But they whose fortune depended upon commerce, and who had already formed to themselves exterior resources, as well as those who in time expected to form them, preserved a passive attachment to France; wishing, however, to retard as much as possible, but without compromising themselves in the business, the execution of this decree, if an official order should arrive to that effect, and particularly if it were supported by a power adequate to that object.

1796. Such was the state of opinions when, on the 18th of July, a squadron of four frigates, under the command of Vice-Admiral Sercey, presented itself, having on board two agents of the Directory, named Baco and Burnel, sent out to take upon them the government of the colony. It being the *Decad*,\* almost all the merchants of the town, according to custom, were gone to their country-houses, as well

\* What the French, now, term Holiday.

as several members of the Colonial Assembly. However, on a signal being given from the mountains, announcing the arrival of this French squadron, they all hastened to the port; but although some general measures had been taken to prevent the entrance of any one into the colony, without the permission of the Colonial Assembly, the division of Admiral Sercey was already anchored at the mouth of the harbour; and the agents, dressed in their directorial costume, had left the ship, followed by a company of grenadiers, belonging to the transport troops which they had on board, who were commanded by General Magalon.

The officer commanding the pinnacle of the harbour remonstrated in vain with the agents against their landing, until they had received permission from the Colonial Assembly, subscribed by the Governor-general.

No force being prepared to oppose the landing of the agents, they received no interruption, and the people, having assembled in crowds to meet them, flattering themselves that they brought orders favourable to the colony, they were conducted, with all possible respect and ceremony, to the Colonial Assembly, which had assembled in haste at the usual place of their session.

Being admitted as agents of the directory, their speeches on the occasion were most flattering for the colony, as they announced that they were charged with a commission from the Directory, which had no other object than the real happiness and prosperity of the colony. They were accordingly received in the most respectful manner. However one of the members of the Assembly, more courageous, and possessing more forethought than the rest, demanded if there was not also a commission named to receive from the agents the orders and instructions with which they were charged, and to give an account of them to the Assembly.

This question was evaded by the agents, who that very evening were installed in the government-house.

On the following day, 19th July, they reviewed the two regiments, the 107th and 108th, which formed the old garrison, and caused the battalion, of about eight hundred men, and two companies of artillery, which they had brought with them, to be landed. At the review they flattered the soldiers, and seemed to blame the colony, on account of their receiving their pay in paper. Their discourse soon spread abroad, and began to confirm the fears of those who were alarmed at the arrival of persons, who, by their great powers, became the arbiters of their fate: they had, indeed, been already struck by the evasion of the agents to produce their

instructions; nor was it long before they were confirmed in these sentiments, as the agents, thinking themselves fixed in their situation, sought for a pretext to quarrel with the Governor Malartic, and even went so far as to threaten to have him hanged. They were likewise so imprudent as to menace, in the same manner, M. des Crozilles, the member of the Colonial Assembly, who had demanded that their instructions should be laid before them.

July 20th. The agents reviewed the national guard of the port, and were astonished to find it about four thousand strong. In short, they were received with an appearance of mistrust, which became general. These fears were communicated to the inhabitants of the interior parts, who, having conferred together, came armed to the town.

During these two days the Colonial Assembly, particularly charged with the safety of the colony, had established a committee of nine members, to correspond with the agents, and endeavour to obtain some information of their future intentions.

The silence, in which they persisted, no longer left any doubt of their design of putting into execution the decree abolishing all slavery in the French colonies. The inhabitants therefore, being convinced of the imminent danger which threatened them, were influenced by one common determination to engage in the dismissal of the agents; but as it was apprehended that the troops might support them, twenty young Creoles devoted themselves to the welfare of the colony, and vowed the death of these instruments of republican despotism.

In this morning, of the 21st of July, almost all the inhabitants of the colony were assembled on the public place at the door of the government-house, where the agents continued to reside, although informed of the danger which threatened them.

The Governor-general Malartic was taken from his government, and carried in triumph to the Colonial Assembly. The agents then ordered General Magalon, who came with them, to cause the troops to take arms against the inhabitants: this order the general excused himself from obeying, by declaring that as he was under the command of General Malartic, he could receive none which had not his signature affixed to them. The agents in vain informed him that they deposed General Malartic, and appointed him as his successor.

In the mean while some young Creoles entered the government-house, by the windows, and announced to the agents that, being charged with orders that brought on

the destruction of the colony, they deserved death; at the same moment one of the agents narrowly escaped being killed by the discharge of a pistol, and the other was preserved by the Commissioners of the Colonial Assembly, who at that instant were treating with them.

The inhabitants, informed of this event, and seeing the soldiers remain quiet in their quarters, contented themselves with insisting on the immediate re-embarkation of the agents, a requisition to which the members of the commission acceded; and, having persuaded the agents to submit, they accompanied them in person, in order to preserve them from the general indignation: and, in this manner, conducted them on board a sloop, which had been just ordered to receive and take them to the Phillippine islands. This destination had, without doubt, been preferred, as being one of the most remote places from France. This order had been obtained by the Colonial Assembly from General Malartic, who, during the whole of this tumult, was present with them.

The sloop, *Le Moineau*, having, in twelve hours, received all the necessary stores for its voyage, got under sail for its destination; but, on the morrow of their departure, having dressed themselves in their directorial costume, they harangued the crew, and soon induced them to mutiny against the captain, and consent to return to France, after having put in at Madagascar, to take in the stores necessary for so long a voyage.

The colony, thus freed from the presence of the agents, gave themselves up to transports of gratitude towards the military chiefs and troops who had refused to shed blood. Every one eagerly contributed voluntary gifts in favour of the soldiers, and good order was re-established under the administration of the constituted authorities. An advice was sent immediately to France, with an address of the Colonial Assembly, as well to the two Councils as to the Directory, giving an account of the dismissal of its agents, and representing it in a manner, as may be supposed, the most favourable to themselves.

The imminent dangers to which every one had been exposed, from the sudden emancipation of the slaves, with which they had been threatened, had, in a moment, rallied every one, as it were, to the common standard, and produced this union of the whole colony, for the immediate dismissal of its agents. Every one congratulated himself on such an happy event, and entertainments were given on the occasion throughout the colony.



" But in a very short time a difference of interest rekindled discord, and some evil spirits, always active in fomenting mischief, conceived the hopes, by means of the soldiers in the garrison, of renewing the public disorder. The soldiers, to whom the colony continually gave proofs of its gratitude, in order to maintain peace, abused the kindness with which they were treated, and having given themselves up to licentiousness with the Negro women, formed a plan of freeing them from the servitude which retained them with their masters, by proclaiming their freedom.

1797. The Colonial Assembly, who watched without ceasing for the preservation of the island, being informed of the fresh dangers with which it was threatened, succeeded in obtaining from the Governor-general Malartic an order for sending to Batavia all the soldiers who came with the agents, under the division of Vice Admiral Sercey, which was executed towards the end of the year 1797, on pretext of assisting a colony, in alliance with them, and which was threatened by the common enemy.

1798. This is the epoch when two ambassadors from Tippoo Sultaun arrived at the Isle of France. The following is a copy of the proclamation, published on this occasion by the Governor-general Count de Malartic.

### MALARTIC'S PROCLAMATION.

LIBERTY.

EQUALITY.

THE FRENCH REPUBLIC, ONE AND INDIVISIBLE.

### PROCLAMATION,

*By Anne Joseph Hyppolite Malartic, Commander in Chief and Governor-general of the Isles of France and of Réunion,\* and of all the French Establishments to the Eastward of the Cape of Good Hope.*

CITIZENS,

HAVING for several years known your zeal and attachment to the interests and the glory of our Republic, we are very anxious, and feel it a duty, to make you acquainted with all the propositions which have been made to us by Tippoo Sultaun, who has sent two ambassadors to us.

\* A particular expression employed by the republicans, meaning of the Isle of Bourbon.

This prince has written particular letters to the Colonial Assembly, as well as to all the generals employed under this government, and has addressed a packet to us for the Executive Directory.

1. He desires to form an offensive and defensive alliance with the French, and proposes to maintain, at his charge, as long as the war shall last in India, the troops which may be sent to him.

2. He promises to furnish every necessary for carrying on the war, wine and brandy excepted, with which he is wholly unprovided.

3. He declares, that he has made every preparation to receive the succours which may be sent to him, and that, on the arrival of the troops, the commanders and officers will find every thing necessary for engaging in a war, to which Europeans are but little accustomed.

4. In a word, he only waits the moment when the French shall come to his assistance, to declare war against the English, whom he ardently desires to expel from India.

As it is impossible for us to reduce the number of the 107th and 108th regiments, and of the regular guard of the port of *Fraternité*,\* on account of the succours which we have furnished to our allies, the Dutch, we invite the citizens, who may be disposed to enter as volunteers, to enrol themselves in their respective municipalities, and to serve under the banners of Tippoo.

This prince desires also to be assisted by the free citizens of colour: we therefore invite all such who are willing to serve under his flag, to enrol themselves.

We can assure all the citizens who shall enrol themselves, that Tippoo will allow them an advantageous rate of pay, the terms of which will be fixed with his ambassadors, who will further engage, in the name of their sovereign, that all Frenchmen, who may enter into his armies, shall never be detained after they have expressed a wish to return to their own country.

Done at Port North-west, the 30th of January, 1798.

(Signed)

MALARTIC.

\* Meaning the Port Bourbon of Mauritius.

*Malartic's Letters to Tippoo Sultaun's Ambassadors.*

Isle of France, the 27th of February, 1798, 6th Year of the Republic.

GENTLEMEN,

I am too sincere in my nature to suffer you to remain ignorant of the great dissatisfaction which your letter of this morning has given me. Your Sultaun deputed you to solicit our aid on such conditions as we might deem just, and not on those which you now prescribe to us.

The demands which I have proposed to you, within these few days past, were framed by General Dagincourt, who is particularly known to your Sultaun, under whose orders he served when a captain of grenadiers in the battalion of the regiment of the Isle of France, which made a campaign during the last war, under the Bahaudar and Tippoo Sultaun; I therefore persist in demanding, for all the officers and volunteers, the pay and provisions stipulated in the last statement which I transmitted to you.

The pay which was granted ten years ago, cannot be made a rule for the pay which ought to be given now.

Those who at that period received 150 rupees per month, now demand 600.

As you do not choose to take surgeons; you shall not have them; but your master will not be satisfied with your conduct on this article.

The officers and volunteers who are to accompany you, shall not make a journey of 500 leagues to ascertain what pay Tippoo Sultaun may choose to fix for them. I shall order them not to disembark, until Tippoo Sultaun shall have satisfied them that he will allow the pay and provisions which I propose to him.

We have not sought you, you came to solicit our aid: you ought, therefore, to submit to the conditions which I propose to you: they are just and reasonable.

Salutation and fraternity.

(Signed)

MALARTIC,  
Governor-General.

(A true translation)

G. G. KEBLE, French translator.

*Narrative of the Proceedings of Tippoo Sultaun's Ambassadors.*

*The following Circumstances were taken down, as dictated by Ripaud, on board the Vessel, on the 27th of Zaukree, 1225, of Mabommed, answering to the 15th of December, 1797.*

It has been ordered by the sacred Presence, that (we) must bring thirty thousand horse and forty thousand infantry, one hundred guns and mortars, with their equipments and artillery men, to join the French force. Provisions, carriage, conveyance, and military stores, shall be furnished by the Khoodadaud Sirkar. This article was not brought forward.

That we should forward as great a number of Europeans as we can, together with twenty or thirty thousand men of colour, who know their exercise well, and commanded by experienced officers.

That the generals who may be sent on the part of the French be masters of their profession, such as General Magalon: and as our king is better versed in the systems of India, the French Generals must consult with him, and carry on operations against the enemy, in concert with him.

Whatever may be taken in this war from the enemies of our king and the republic, such as towns, forts, factories, effects, ships and vessels, money, &c. or whatever cash or treasure be taken from nations in subjection to them; all these must be divided into two equal parts, one half for our king, and the other for the republic; excepting the country of the Khoodadaud Sirkar, which the English formerly wrested by force of arms; such country will be retained by the Sirkar, and the French are to have no share in it.

Should the French republic be desirous of making peace with the English, they are not to conclude such peace without our king being comprehended therein; because, after the treaty of alliance, the enemies of the republic will be still the enemies of our king, and it would be inconsistent with friendship and justice not to include him in the peace.

Should any one in the service of the Khoodadaud Sirkar enter the French camp, and commit any outrage, let him be apprehended and sent to the Presence, in order that he may be punished according to the forms of the Khoodadaud Sirkar; and, in the same manner, should any one of the French army enter the camp of our king,



and be guilty of any outrage and irregularity, he shall be immediately apprehended, and sent to the general of the French army, in order that he may punish him agreeably to his own customs. This article was not brought forward.

Should these propositions be approved by the republic, we request the leaders of the mother-republic to transmit speedy intelligence thereof to our king, by a small vessel, in order that his highness, in person, may set on foot a formidable and victorious army, to meet that of the French in the neighbourhood of Mirjaun, which place is near to Goa. Oh, French nation! with a view to the mutual interests of the parties, our king intended to send several letters under his august seal and signature, with four sirdars of high rank, for the purpose of negotiating, in a ship belonging to the Khoodadaud Sirkar, to the chiefs of the mother-country: but the apprehensions of the enemy, and the unfavourableness of the season, prevented this design from being put in execution. A standard of the republic was, however, quickly prepared, and set up in the camp of Lally; which his majesty caused to be saluted with three thousand guns. \*

Ripaud and Mons. de Bay can bear testimony to this fact: and whereas our king has declared, that he will thus support the standard of the republic: O French nation! if ye will but consent to these propositions, you need not hereafter fear your enemies. Turn your thoughts only to the protection of your island, for our king will keep the English so employed and embarrassed, that they will be unable to turn their attention towards you. Further, Zemaun Shah, king of the Afghauns, and the greater part of the Indian powers, are united with our king for this purpose, and will not cease until they shall have driven the English out of India.

O Protector! †

Supporter of the world—Health!

\* Here follow the names of various implements of war, probably meaning ordnance, muskets, and rockets; but the usual appellations being changed according to Tippoo Sultaun's system, it is not known what species are here designated. This alludes to the ceremony of consecrating the national flag, of which a detailed account is given in the journal of the sittings of a jacobin club, which had been established at Seringapatam, under the auspices of M. Ripaud. This curious paper, in which the Sultaun is styled le Citoyen Tippoo, was found in the palace at Seringapatam.

† An invocation to the Deity.

The particulars of our proceedings, from our first leaving Jemaul-abaud, until our arrival at the port of Cowrial, Mangalore, in the Khoodadaud Sirkar, are as follow :

\* On Sunday, the 17th of Zaukree, 1225 of the birth of Mahommed (5th December, 1797), we embarked. *Ripaud*\* occasioned the delay of a day or two in adjusting the equipments of the vessel, &c. On the 19th, we weighed anchor. After proceeding five or six coss† out to sea, *Ripaud*, accompanied by several persons, came to us in a very disorderly manner, desiring us to shew them the letters which had been entrusted to us for the Sirdars, or chiefs, at *Mauritius*: we observed, that our orders from the Presence were, not to open the dispatches until our arrival there, and that it was not becoming in him, who had laid the foundation of the present expedition, and was acquainted with all circumstances, to take such a step. But our persuasions were of no avail; for he took the dispatches from us by force, and, tearing open the leathern envelope, wanted to open the *khbereetabs*‡ also; we told him that he would be disgraced, and his improper proceedings exposed to his whole nation; adding, that it was highly unbecoming in him to be guilty of such treachery and misconduct: that until our arrival at *Mauritius*, we respected these *khbereetabs* as our lives, and that we would sacrifice them in our endeavours to deliver these *khbereetabs* as we had been directed by the Presence. Upon this, he restored them to us. The next day he came to us, and desired that we would make over to him the money which had been given to us by the Presence, for him and his French associates, otherwise, said he, I will go to *Umba'ee* (meaning, perhaps, towards Bombay), and other parts, for plunder, and will

\* *Ripaud*, who commanded a French privateer, was, by stress of weather, obliged to put into Mangalore, in the latter part of 1796. He was there apprehended, sent to Seringapatam, and confined. *Ripaud* (who is a violent republican), being interrogated by *Tippoo* Sultaun with respect to the disposition and ability of the French to co-operate in an attack against the English Company's possessions, encouraged the Sultaun to expect a powerful co-operation; and to effect his delivery, magnified the resources of his nation, and induced the Sultaun to believe, that a very considerable force was already assembled at the Isle of France, and only waited his summons. *Tippoo* therefore retained *Ripaud* as a vackeel, and sent him with his ambassadors to *Mauritius*.

† A coss is usually reckoned equal to about two miles English.

‡ *Khbereetabs* are the bags or cases of tissue, or silk, in which letters addressed to persons of rank are usually enclosed.

coast it for five or six months. We answered, " You know very well, that the money which his highness assigned for our expences was entrusted to us in your presence, by Shaik Ahmud, Mullik-oo-Toojar ; it is, therefore, very unbecoming in you to make this request."

Refuge of the World, health ! He assigned for our accommodation the part of the vessel appropriated to the Lascars, without any place for us to sleep or sit down ; and our inconveniences increased daily : at last we desired Ripaud to allot some place for us to remain in until our arrival at the Mauritius ; upon which he gave us a small *doney* (boat), which was on the vessel, to sleep and eat in, until our arrival at the island. From the day of our leaving Mangalore, until our arrival at Mauritius, he gave us no more water than he allowed to the Lascars, which only sufficed for drinking, and was not enough for cooking. In the course of the voyage, he took two vessels ; when taking the cargo out, he released them. After ten or twelve days we steered directly for the Mauritius.—Ripaud sent a message to me,\* proposing to recite to us the commands which your highness had entrusted to him, respecting the negotiations with the sirdars of the Mauritius ; that we should take a translation of them, and make our representations accordingly, at the island. We replied, that the Shaik Ahmud, Mullik-oo-Toojar, had communicated to us in his (Ripaud's) presence, orders to this effect, that whatever he (Ripaud) should dictate to us, or tell us, we should make our representations accordingly to the sirdars above-mentioned, through the medium of Monsieur de Bay. Ripaud brought several papers to us, and dictating to de Bay, caused him to write several articles ; which being done, he said, that they were in conformity to the orders of the Presence, and desired that we would regulate our negotiations by them. It is impossible to describe the distress we suffered from the rain and the motion of the waves. However, by the favour of God, and your majesty's auspices, we survived, and on Thursday the 3d of the month Rawzee (19th January, 1798), being arrived within two coss of the Mauritius, a pilot came off in a boat to learn the circumstances of the ship. He came on board, and Ripaud received him with a great deal of cordiality ; he told him that we were ambassadors sent by your highness to the sirdars of the Mauritius, and desired that he would send some one on shore to give the proper notification. The pilot immediately sent a Lascar, with a

\* The vakeels are designated, throughout this paper, by the term ghoolaum, or slaves. Here the word is in the singular number, and is, perhaps, intended to apply to the writer only.

verbal message, to the general: and in two or three hours\* after, a physician came to ascertain the people's health on board the ship; he accordingly sent for all who were on board, and inquired into the state of every man's health: he then came up to us, and made a *salam*, or obeisance, and told us, that he would immediately send notice to the general, of our arrival: we desired him to allot some place for our accommodation on shore, and enable us to disembark, adding, that in a day or two after, we would commence our interviews with the sirdars; requesting that our arrival might not be made known.

The physician, after remaining an hour, returned to the sirdars, and before two hours had elapsed, sent four persons of rank with a verbal message, stating, that he was extremely happy at our arrival, and would send for us the next day; we replied, by requesting that he would send for us clandestinely, so that it should be known to no one; they replied, that they would make their report to the general, and act agreeably to such orders as he might give. They then departed. In the mean time, Ripaud carried the ship near land, and dropping anchor in the mouth of the river, immediately went to the general. At twelve o'clock at night he came on board again, and told us that he had represented every thing to the general: but before his return, five or six sirdars, and two aides-de-camp of General Malartic, came to us on board the vessel, and told us that they must conform to the custom of their nation, and that if they did not receive your highness's ambassadors with due respect and attention, they would be censured from home. We used every argument in our power to dissuade them from that intention, but to no purpose. The next day, the soldiers were drawn up in two lines, from the bank of the river to General Malartic's house, by his particular directions. He also sent several officers in his own boat to meet us, and conduct us to his house; accordingly we went on shore in the boat, and immediately on our landing, near a hundred and fifty guns were fired; and we were conducted, with the utmost degree of respect, to the sirdars. When we arrived at General Malartic's house, the general himself, General Sercey, the members of the council,† and other sirdars, met us at the door of the house. The general seated us on chairs at his right hand. We presented your highness's compliments to all the sirdars, and told them, that the object

\* The hours in this paper must be understood to mean the Hindostany ghurry, consisting of about 23 or 24 minutes.

† The Colonial Assembly.



of our coming was to inquire after the health of your majesty's friends, as no news of them had reached the Presence for several years, and therefore your majesty had deputed us to all the sirdars, that we might ascertain and return with an account of the welfare of your majesty's friends. I then took the *libereetabs*, containing your majesty's letters, in my hands, rose from my seat, and addressing the sirdars, told them that they must take the royal letters with respect. Upon this, General Malartic arose, and taking off his hat, received the letters from my hands. In the same manner General Sercey rose from his place, and came up to me, and then I delivered to him his letter also. General Magalon was not then present, but General Malartic told us, that if we would deliver to him your highness's letter to General Magalon, he would take care to convey it to that officer, and obtain his receipt for it: we accordingly delivered the august letter into the hands of General Malartic. When I afterwards inquired who was the president of the council; Malartic desired Monsieur des Combres to rise and take the letters. At the time of our landing, we desired Ripaud to accompany us, which, however, he did not; but, in about one hour after our arrival, he came to the assembly, and holding his hat under his arm, stood at a distance. We told General Malartic that Monsieur de Bay had been sent from the Presence to be the interpreter between him and us, in any negociations which might take place between us; in consequence of which, he called de Bay, and observed to him, that in your highness's letter Yoosuf-Alli was mentioned, as the person deputed, whereas our names were Hussem-Alli and Shaik-Ibrahim, and desired to know the reason of this. This being explained to us by de Bay, I answered, that Meer-Yoosuf-Alli had been originally appointed, but being afflicted with illness, he had been set aside, and your highness had deputed us instead. We then told General Malartic that we had several points of a secret nature to communicate to him, and therefore if he would send for us in private, we would unfold to him what your highness had directed. General Malartic answered, "At three o'clock we will visit you at your place of residence;" we then took our leave. General Malartic provided us both with palanquins, and directed the bearers to remain with us as long as we continued on the island, and he gave us a garden close to the city to reside in. At three o'clock all the sirdars came to visit us: we accordingly went to meet them as far as the garden gate, and conducted them into the house with all due ceremony and respect. We seated them on chairs, and addressed them to this effect: "The object of our king, in desiring to form an alliance with the

“ French republic, is to crush our already half-expiring enemy ;—what do you wait for? His majesty is ready to afford you succours ; shew yourselves, therefore, in India. The unbounded violence and oppression of the English have rendered all the princes of India their enemies ; they are enfeebled on every side, and from the great extent of territory, which they have acquired by artifice, they are dispersed in all quarters. Look upon the present time as a most fortunate opportunity ; send a large army, and an extensive train of artillery, to the assistance of our sovereign, and after chastising our mutual enemies, drive them out of India. The English tremble at the very name of our sovereign and of the French, and will not be able to withstand his power, when it is supported by the aid of the French republic, but will be defeated in every quarter. It is well known to the republic, that both his late majesty, and our present sovereign, have at all times been the friends and well-wishers of the French nation ; have always sought their assistance and support, and made common cause in the wars against their enemies. The wish of our sovereign is this, that, by affording assistance to the republic, the French name may become as honoured and exalted in India, as it is through Europe and among the Mussulmen.”

The sirdars asked, if an auxiliary force should be furnished from Europe, would your highness supply them with provisions, military stores, conveyance, and carriage? We answered, that from the day of the landing of the French army in India, your highness would supply them with provisions ; that is to say, rice, meat of every kind, and ghee (excepting, however, European liquors), military stores, conveyance, and carriage. They then told us, that, for the purpose of procuring a large military force, they would fit out two ships of war, which should be dispatched to France, with letters from themselves, together with your highness's letters addressed to them, which would be given in charge to two confidential persons of rank ; and they desired that we would give them a memorandum of the provisions and carriage which we had promised them, in order that they might forward it to Europe, and speedily obtain the military succours required. We replied, that we would the next day furnish them with the account they requested. They then rose and went home. In the morning they sent the principal aid-de-camp and \* ———, Dewan,† to us ; who said, that General Malartic sent his compliments, and desired him to mention, that he and the other three sirdars were about to write letters to the government in Europe, and

\* It does not appear who the other was.

† Superintendant of the finance, or revenue.

therefore he requested that we would furnish him with the memorandum which we had promised, with respect to provisions and carriage. Having accordingly drawn up a memorandum with regard to provisions and carriage, we sent it by Mons. de Bay to General Malartic. Cherisher of the World, health!—These four sirdars have each written separate letters, to procure a large force for the assistance of the Sirkar; and have deputed two confidential persons, one Mons. —, \* the principal aid-de-camp, the other Mons. Magon, a captain, in order to represent the excess of your highness's friendship and attachment, and charged with your highness's letters addressed to General Malartic, &c.

Accordingly, on the 7th of Rauzee, 1225, of the birth of Mahommed, (23d of January, 1798), they were dispatched to Europe, on two ships of war, with the utmost caution. After two or three days, with a view to strengthen the foundations of friendship and attachment, we caused a paper to be drawn up by Monsieur de Bay, to the following purpose, and sent it to General Malartic; viz. that, in order to cement the basis of friendship and alliance, it was necessary that both parties should bind themselves by oaths, in order that the system of harmony and friendship, subsisting between your majesty and the French nation, might be confirmed, and while the moon should keep its course, this alliance should remain unimpaired and unviolated. General Malartic returned for answer, that the ratification of the alliance by oath depended upon the government in Europe; that the friendship between the Khoodadaud Sirkar and the French nation was fully established; that there would never be any diminution of that friendship and union, as long as the moon retained her course; that the enemies of their state were the enemies of the French nation; that your highness would soon have an opportunity of seeing what the devotion and friendship of the French nation would effect, with the view of crushing the enemy; and that he was from his heart the devoted servant of your sirkar.

Refuge of the World! In consequence of the severity of a sea voyage, and unfavourableness of the climate, I was so much indisposed, that General Malartic's Dewan remarked it, and told the general that I was extremely ill; in consequence of that information, he immediately sent two of the first physicians to attend me, with a message, that on the next day, at three o'clock, he would come himself to visit me. The following day General Malartic came accordingly, and after making inquiries respecting my health, he said, that Ripaud had made an erroneous representation to your highness,

\* Name illegible.

which occasioned us to be deputed, that had we arrived four months before, he could have sent us back with one thousand Europeans, until the arrival of the army from Europe, but that those troops had now been dispatched to Batavia, to the assistance of the Dutch. Still, however, he would manifest his devotion in the best manner he could, and that he would not send us away empty-handed. He then asked in what places your highness had factories established, and what was the practice of the sirkar with respect to the establishment of factories? and desired us to send a memorandum upon the subject. The next day we caused de Bay to draw up a reply, to the following effect, which we sent to General Malartic; viz. "That your highness had established factories at Muscat, at Kutch, at Bussora, and in other principal cities; that two confidential persons were kept at each factory to buy and sell; and that if he were willing that a factory, on the part of your highness, should be established at the Mauritius, we could represent it to your highness, and that if you approved, a factory should be established accordingly." Some days after, General Malartic sent for us, and told us, that he readily agreed to the establishment of the sirkar's factory at the Mauritius, adding, that he would appoint a dewan to superintend it, who would provide such articles as your highness required, at a favourable rate, and also that he would assign a house, belonging to the Company, for the purpose.

In the course of three days, I sent a note by Monsieur de Bay to General Malartic, requesting, that he would procure some plants of the nutmeg and cloves, some European fruit trees, fine coloured and sweet scented flowers, and filling some wooden boxes with earth, plant them therein, and send them carefully back with us, to be presented to your highness. The general immediately sent for the gardener, and directed him to prepare the plants in the boxes, with the utmost expedition. At three o'clock, we received a visit from General Sercey; we advanced to meet him, conducted him into the house, and seated him on a chair. General Sercey said to us, that, please God, some large succours would very soon arrive from Europe, and that it was his intention to accompany the troops to your highness. We then told him it would be very desirable, if he could send back with us, five or six experienced navigators, several ship-builders, and iron cannon foundries; to which General Sercey agreed, promising to send them with us on our return. After sitting two hours, he rose. General Malartic, soon after, sent a message by his Dewan, inviting us, the following morning, to see the powder mills, gardens, and mortar-firing (adding, that he should be at the powder works before us. Early



in the morning, accompanied by de Bay, we went to the powder works, and immediately on our alighting from our palanquins, at the gate, we were saluted with twenty-one guns, the soldiers were drawn out in two ranks, while several officers came out to meet us, and conducted us to General Malartic and General Sercey, who met us at the head of the stairs, and taking our hands, seated us upon chairs, and then proposed to shew us the works: we answered, that it was just as they pleased; their pleasure was ours. They immediately rose, and shewed us all the works. We then went without the gates, where they directed the artillery-men to fire the mortars at the targets, which they did fifteen times. They then requested that we would go and see the garden, with the plants of nutmegs and cloves, &c. On our leaving the powder works, we were again saluted with twenty-one guns. We then proceeded to the garden, where we remained four hours, and then returned home. The next day, General Malartic sent to invite us to go and see some fire-works to be displayed that night; accordingly, an hour before the close of the day, we went to the place where the fire-works were to be exhibited. The second aid-de-camp, and five sirdars, came out to meet us, and conducted us to the upper story; at that time both the generals were not present. Having sat till nine o'clock at night, and seen the fire-works, we returned home. Two or three days afterwards, they invited us to go and see the arsenal, the moody-khauna\*, and the iron manufactory, desiring that we would come for that purpose at four hours after daylight. We accordingly set out, and on our arrival at the gate of the arsenal, the sirdars belonging to the establishment, came out to meet us; they shewed us the whole of the establishment of muskets, implements of war, balls, &c. &c. after which we took our leave. The next day, General Malartic sent a verbal message by — Dewan, inviting us to go, at three o'clock in the afternoon, to see the batteries and ordnance. The person in command of them, received directions to shew them to us; and we accordingly set out, accompanied by Monsieur de Bay; and when arrived at the batteries, the sirdars of that department came forward, and shewed us the batteries and ordnance: they caused several shots to be fired. After seeing them all, we took leave of those sirdars, and returned home. The next day, we were informed by des Combres and the Dewan, that General Malartic had sent a ship to Bourbon, to fetch men for the service of the sarkar; and that the general said he would not suffer us to take leave, until the return of the ship: we told them, that we were not

\* Granary.

come to carry away with us men to be enlisted for the service of the sirkar, (in other words, recruits), nor were such the orders we received from the Presence. Five or six days after, General Malartic informed us, that he had appointed some men for the service of the sirkar, whom he was about to send accordingly, and desired us to give it under our hands, that we would represent to the Presence, and procure their entertainment at the rate of pay, which he should fix. We informed him, that we could not venture to make any such representation to the Presence. General Malartic replied, "Were I to write to the Presence, would it not be agreed to?" We answered, that if he chose to write, it would be at your highness's option to agree to it or not. After this, we took leave. Being returned home, we wrote and sent a letter to General Malartic, by Monsieur de Bay, to this purport: "It is very well known to you, Sir, that the object of our coming hither was, to carry with us the succour of a large and effective body of troops. Persons of your nation, represented to the Presence, that a considerable body of troops was actually ready at the Mauritius, for the assistance of the sirkar; and that as soon as ambassadors should be sent to the sirdars of the Mauritius, on the part of the Khoodadaud sirkar, an efficient body of men should be sent back with them, whereby the common enemy would be chastised. Had his highness been pleased to give us orders for raising French recruits, his highness would not have sent us without settling their rate of pay and establishment, agreeably to the custom of the sirkar. From a regard to the ancient union and established friendship subsisting between the two states, you deem it improper to send away the ambassadors of the Khoodadaud Sirkar empty handed, and therefore propose to send a few men, whom you yourself have engaged for the service of the sirkar; but the object of the sirkar will not be answered by so small a number: neither are we instructed to carry with us recruits from the Mauritius, nor indeed can this be done without money. Men of your nation come to us every day (meaning for the purpose of being engaged), and require to be furnished with money; but supposing they waved their demand for money here, and voluntarily repaired to the Presence with us, under your orders, their pay must be fixed by the Presence; it would therefore be preferable to depute two vakeels of your own with us, to negotiate the matter. As soon as such vakeels shall have arrived at the Presence, and his highness shall have stated to them the rate of pay and establishment, as allowed to Lally's force in the

“ service of the sirkar, should his highness be disposed to entertain them, agree-  
 “ ably to the accustomed rate of our sirkar, his highness will send money with his  
 “ ambassadors: and then you may enlist men, and send them accordingly: in  
 “ the mean time, do us the favour to give us leave to return to the Presence.”—  
 General Malartic wrote in answer, and also sent word by Monsieur des Combres,  
 and ——— dewan, that he proposed sending Messrs. Chapuis and Dubuc, with  
 several other sirdars, to your highness; with this view; that until the arrival of the  
 French succours from Europe, the former should reside at the Presence in quality  
 of plenipotentiary; that the other Frenchmen might not, by telling falsities, like  
 Ripaud, deceive your highness; and that Monsieur Dubuc might be deputed to  
 France, together with your highness's ambassadors, at the opening of the season,  
 to negociate on the part of your highness: as by his going, many points of great  
 importance would be effected. For these reasons, he said, he proposed sending  
 these persons to the Presence, that hereafter, should your highness approve of  
 engaging Frenchmen for your service, they should be entertained at the rate, and  
 according to the customs of the sirkar, and sent accordingly.

Refuge of the World!—After the lapse of eighteen days, the ship which had been  
 sent to Bourbon, returned empty. It appeared, that a great many men wished to  
 come, but were prevented by the want of means. On being informed of this,  
 General Malartic sent word to us, that he proposed, in the course of five or six  
 days, to send us to Bourbon; that we might carry to your highness as many men  
 as were willing to accompany us. General Mangalon paying us a visit, we stated  
 to him, that it would be very gratifying, if he would accompany the troops destined  
 for the service of the state: to which he replied, that when a considerable force  
 should arrive from Europe, for the purpose of subduing the enemy, he would  
 accompany it to the Presence, and he desired that we would make that represen-  
 tation to your highness. After sitting two hours, he took leave. Four days after,  
 General Malartic sent for us to his house, at three o'clock in the afternoon, and  
 then proposed to us to embark the following morning at nine o'clock, adding, that  
 he himself would accompany us on board of ship, to take leave.

On the next day, being Thursday the 21st of Rubbaunce, 1225, (8th March  
 1798), of the birth of Mahommed, we set out. When we arrived at the bank  
 of the river, several sirdars accompanied us in the boat, and escorted us on board  
 the ship, (the frigate la Preneuses, where they took leave. General Malartic,

Monsieur Chapuis, and Monsieur Dubuc, followed us on board ; when the former delivered to us the *kberetabs*, containing the *arrees* to your highness's address, desiring that we would present his humble respects. He then gave orders for weighing anchor, and returned. As soon as General Malartic had got into the boat, the captain of the ship ordered the anchor to be hove ; and in one day and a night, we arrived at Bourbon, where we anchored. Monsieur Chapuis and Dubuc, went on shore to visit the governor of Bourbon ; and returned, bringing with them four persons, who were desirous of proceeding to the Presence. The captain continued here the whole day, and then weighing anchor, shaped his course for Mangalore, with about an hundred men.

Near the line we met with a storm, in which one of the masts of the ship was sprung, and during the whole of the night, the people despaired of their lives ; but through the favour of God, and the royal auspices, in the morning the storm abated.

Prior to this, I had the honour to write to your highness, a full and accurate account of the engagement which took place off Tellicherry,\* together with the disembarkment of the Europeans, and their demands. Thus your highness will have been informed of those particulars.

Dated 8th of Tuckee, of the year Shadaub, 1226 of the birth of Mahommed, (23 May, 1798.)

A true Translation.

N. B. EDMONSTONE,

P. T. to Government.

*Circular.*—Copy of a Letter from the Secret Committee of Directors to the Government in India, dated the 26th of November, 1798.

Our letter to you of the 18th of June last, inclosed a copy of our orders to the Governor-general in Council, of the same date, relative to the expedition from Toulon, under General Bonaparte, and directing your obedience thereto, so far as should respect your Presidency.

\* This alludes to the capture of the Raymond and Woodcott Indiamen in Tellichery Road.



Our subsequent advices of July and August will have informed you of the appointment of Mr. Jones to reside at the Court of the Pacha of Bagdat, as well as the object of his mission, and of the reinforcements already sent and now sending out to India.

Since the date of our letter of June last, above alluded to, the landing of Bonaparte in Egypt has been fully confirmed. By the glorious victory of Admiral Nelson over the French fleet near Alexandria, and the opposition made to their progress through Egypt, by the Arabs, under the authority of the Porte, the designs of the French have been considerably impeded; yet if, contrary to our hopes and expectations, he should be able to establish himself in Egypt, we cannot but still be under apprehensions for the safety of our Indian possessions. These apprehensions are considerably increased in consequence of some hints lately suggested by the Right Honourable Henry Dundas, that if the French should be able to subdue Egypt, and to establish their authority in that country, it is likely their next progressive measure would be to secure the communication of the Red Sea with the Gulf of Cambay, at the narrow straits of Babelmandel; and, if in their power, to detach a sufficient force to take possession of the island of Perim, situate between the two points which include those straits.

The possession of this station will be of the greatest importance to the French, in securing the advantages they propose to themselves in the conquest of Egypt, and consequently it is well deserving the utmost vigilance and exertion on the part of Great Britain, to defeat any plan they may entertain to get it into their hands. If we should succeed in making ourselves masters of that island, it would be impossible, in the first instance, for any ships to pass the straits against a superior naval force stationed there. It may then be secured and fortified by the application of such materials as its situation may afford, for completing its permanent defence, and for effectually commanding the channels through which ships must pass to the Indian ocean.

We understand that the island of Perim is a low rocky substance, about five miles in length and two in breadth; that it possesses a good harbour; that the channel, which divides it from the African coast, though fourteen or fifteen miles across, is but little frequented, on account of the numerous rocks and shoals which obstruct it, insomuch as to render it necessary for vessels that do attempt it, to steer close under the western point of the island, and that the extreme breadth of the other channel

is less than two leagues; and that this space cannot be navigable, nor the deep water every where at so great a distance from the island as to be out of the reach of its batteries, whether erected on the shore, or on artificial projections within the sea, if such should be found necessary to the entire command of the passage.

We have entered thus fully into detail, to shew the importance of taking possession of the island of Perim without delay; nor is dispatch alone necessary, but secrecy is equally indispensable, as it is not improbable that provisional measures have been taken by the French to assemble some vessels of burthen at the port of Suez, to co-operate in whatever way their services may be wanted, with the primary expedition; and if the design were known, they would detach a force, at all hazards, to secure the first possession of it.

Mr. Secretary Dundas has further informed us, that although the commanders of his majesty's fleets in India have already been directed to use every effort in their power to frustrate the designs of the French in the expedition under Bonaparte, yet special orders will be sent out to the commander in chief of his majesty's naval force in the Indian seas, as soon as possible, to detach to the Straits of Babelmandel such a force, as, according to the information he shall have received, he may judge sufficient for the service in the instructions to take possession of the island of Perim, by whatever power it may be occupied at the time.

The importance of the measure we have thus pointed out, will insure your most cordial endeavours in promoting the same by every means within your power. The security of our most valuable possessions in India, if not our very existence there, depends upon defeating the present formidable and inveterate design of the French against those possessions.

*The Originals of the following Translations from General Bonaparte, were communicated to Captain Wilson, at Mocha; and the Translations were by him transmitted to the Governor in Council at Bombay.*

## FRENCH REPUBLIC.

LIBERTY.

EQUALITY.

*Bonaparte, Member of the National Convention, General in Chief, to the most magnificent Sultaun, our greatest Friend, Tippoo Saib.*

Head Quarters at Cairo, 7th Pluaise, 7th Year of the Republic, one and indivisible.

"You have already been informed of my arrival on the borders of the Red Sea, with an innumerable and invincible army, full of the desire of relieving you from the iron yoke of England.

"I eagerly embrace this opportunity of testifying to you the desire I have of being informed by you, by the way of Muscat and Mocha, as to your political situation.

"I would even wish you could send some intelligent person to Suez or Cairo, possessing your confidence, with whom I may confer.

(Signed)

"BONAPARTE."

(Seal.)

True Translation from the French.

(Signed)

FRANCIS WOPPERS, Translator.

*Translation of a Letter from General Bonaparte to the Sheriff of Mecca, written in Arabic, without Date, and received at Judda the 17th of February, 1799.*

"You will be fully informed by the Nocqueda of this Dow, how tranquil and quiet every thing is at Cairo and Suez, and between these places, and of the tranquillity which is established among the inhabitants. Not a single Mamaluke oppressor remains in the country; and the inhabitants, without dread or fear, employ themselves in weaving, cultivating the ground, and in other trades, as formerly; and, by the blessing of God, this will be daily increasing, and the duties on merchandize and the taxes will be lessened. The duties on merchandize are now the same as they were prior to their being raised by the Mamelukes; the merchants have every assistance granted them, and the road between Suez and Cairo is open and safe; therefore

do you assure the merchants of your country, that they may bring their goods to Suez, and sell them without dread or apprehension, and may purchase, in exchange for them, such articles as they may wish.

“ I now send you a letter for our friend Tippoo Sultaun ; oblige me by forwarding it to his countries.”

A true Translation.

(Signed)

S. WILSON.

*The Governor-general ( Lord Mornington ) orders the Army of Coromandel and Malabar to assemble, and his Measures for improving the defensive Alliance.*

The Governor-general, therefore, being decidedly of opinion, that it was necessary to assemble the armies on the coasts of Coromandel and Malabar, without delay, issued his final orders for this purpose, on the 20th of June, 1798.

To assemble the army on both coasts, was an indispensable precaution, which his Lordship could not have been justified in omitting, from the moment he was apprised of Tippoo Sultaun's offensive engagements with the French, and of the landing of a French force at Mangalore ; and if circumstances had been favourable for such an attempt, it was his fixed determination to have attacked the Sultaun instantly, for the purpose of defeating his hostile preparations, and of anticipating their declared object. His Lordship was concerned, however, to learn, from persons most conversant in military details at Fort St. George, that, notwithstanding the distinguished discipline of the army on the coast of Coromandel, and the eminent valour, activity, and skill of its officers, its dispersed state, joined to certain radical defects in its establishments, would render the assembling a force, equal to offensive movements against Tippoo Sultaun, a much more tedious and difficult operation than he had apprehended.

The necessarily dispersed state of the troops would have been of less importance, but for those radical defects, which have in a certain degree, at all times existed. These proceed from a system of economy, which precludes the expence of establishing depots of grain in different parts of our possessions, and of maintaining a fixed establishment of draught and carriage cattle ; without which, no portion of the Madras army, however amply it might have been supplied with every other requisite for field operation, was in a condition to act with promptitude and effect.

At the time M. Malartic's proclamation appeared in Bengal, it happened that the condition of the several native powers in India, both with relation to each other, and the British interests, was far more favourable to the success of French intrigue, than it had been at any period, since the peace of Seringapatam. The French faction at Hyderabad, had risen to a dangerous height. Seindeah had lately placed the Boigne's corps in the hands of Frenchmen. Tippoo had manifested a disposition to admit French officers and privates, to an unlimited extent, into his service; and the distractions in the Marhatta empire, and the policy of the several actors, in that intricate scene of reciprocal distrust and irreconcilable interests, left little hope of deriving any advantage whatever, from their alliance, in the event of a war with Tippoo Sultaun.

The danger, however, the most to be apprehended, was from the French party at Hyderabad. The corps, commanded by French officers, in the service of the Nizam, which, during the last war with Mysore, amounted to no more than fifteen hundred men, was at that period so defective, in point of discipline, as to be rather an object of contempt, than of jealousy, to the governments in India: it had gradually augmented its numbers, and improved its discipline, under the command of the late Monsieur Raymond, until the period of the Marquis Wellesley's arrival in India, when it had nearly reached the number of fourteen thousand men; and had attained a degree of discipline, superior, in every respect, to that of any native infantry in India, excepting the seapoys entertained in the Company's service.

On the 13th of July, the Governor-general sent orders to the government of Fort St. George, to assemble such a force in the Guntoor Circar, as might enable him to fulfil the subsidiary engagements of the Company, under the new treaty, at the earliest possible period, subsequent to his conclusion. This measure was executed with the utmost degree of promptitude and alacrity by Lieutenant-general Harris, (at that time uniting in his person the offices of Governor of Fort St. George, and Commander in Chief; to whose zeal, public spirit, and prompt obedience, the Governor-general, on this and many other occasions, bore public testimony.

The British detachment was placed under the command of Lieutenant-colonel Roberts. It reached Hyderabad on the 10th of October, and on the 22d of the same month, under the orders of his highness the Nizam, and with the co-operation of a body of his cavalry, it surrounded the camp of the French army, disarmed all



the seapoys, and secured the persons of all the French officers then in camp. This operation was happily effected without bloodshed, and without contest. A mutiny having broken out in the French camp on the preceding day, and the seapoys having imprisoned their officers, the Resident at Hyderabad, and Lieutenant-colonel Roberts, with the consent of the Nizam, judiciously availed themselves of this favourable opportunity, to execute the important measure entrusted to him, without difficulty or danger.

The amount of the French force disarmed on this occasion, was about eleven thousand men. The remainder of the corps, having been sent on detachments, at some distance from Hyderabad, was soon after secured and disbanded.

The French officers were treated with every practicable degree of attention and humanity.

The season for negotiation, through the pacific channels, so often offered, was now elapsed. After mature deliberation, on the grounds already stated, the Governor-general directed the advance of the army into the territory of the Sultaun, and signified to the allies his determination to proceed to hostilities.

A change of circumstances, and of season, might enable the Sultaun to avail himself of the assistance of France. This conclusion was at that period, confirmed by the knowledge of the actual embarkation of M. Dubuc, and two native vakeels, on an embassy from Tippoo to the Executive Directory of France, an event which took place at Tranquebar, on the 7th of February, 1799.

It would be superfluous to give a detailed account of the march of the army in this campaign, as it has already been very correctly given by Colonel Beatson, &c. The issue of it will be seen in the following letters.

*Copy of a Letter from Lieutenant-general George Harris, to the Chairman of the Court of Directors, dated Seringapatam, 6th May, 1799.*

The Chairmant of the Hon. Court of Directors of the United East-India Company, &c. &c.

SIR,

I have the honour of congratulating you and the Honourable Court, on the prosperous expedition committed to my charge, by the Right Hon. the Earl of Mornington.

Seringapatam was carried by storm at mid-day of the 4th instant; Tippoo Sultaun killed, with many of his principal officers, and thousands of his adherents: his family, with the families of his chief sirdars, are in our possession.

My attention is now directed to secure my position, and maintain our advantages, until I can receive further instructions from the Right Hon. the Governor-general.

I have the honour to be, Sir, &c. &c.

GEORGE HARRIS.

Head Quarters, Seringapatam, 6th May, 1799.

---

*Capture of Seringapatam—Death of Tippoo—Conduct of his Sons—Interment of the Sultaun—British Commander's Attention to the Sultana—Her Character—Cursory Remarks, &c.*

The capture of Seringapatam and death of Tippoo, being but slightly mentioned in the British Commander's letters, it is necessary here to resume the history, and give a full detail of this interesting business. The papers of Lord Mornington sufficiently evinced the necessity of crushing Tippoo's power, and disappointing his ambitious views.

General Harris, according to orders, proceeded for Seringapatam where he arrived April 4, 1799. The English troops were, during the first few days after their arrival, employed in collecting the necessary materials: after which they had repeated skirmishes, when they took some out-posts, &c. so that their breaching batteries did not open till about the termination of the month. Several Polygars and Zemendars of Mysore, had now attached themselves to our allies, and rendered considerable service.

The fire of the batteries, which began to batter in breach on the thirtieth of April, had on the evening of May 2, so greatly injured the walls, against which it was directed, that the arrangement was then made for assaulting the place on the following day, when the breach was reported practicable.

May 3. Early this morning the troops intended to be employed, were stationed in the trenches, that no extraordinary movement might lead the enemy to suspect the assault, which was determined to be made in the heat of the day. These flank companies of Europeans, taken from those regiments necessarily left to guard the camps and out-posts, followed by the 12th, 33d, 73d, and 74th regiments; and

three corps of grenadier seapoys, taken from the troops of three presidencies, with 200 of his Highness the Nizam's troops, formed the party for the assault, accompanied by 100 of the artillery, and the corps of pioneers, and supported in the trenches by the battalion companies of the regiment de Meuron, and four battalions of Madras sepoy. Colonel Sherbrooke, and Lieutenant-colonels Dunlop, Dalrymple, Gardiner, and Mignan; commanded the several flank troops, and Major-general Baird was entrusted with the direction of this important service.

The troops moved at one o'clock from the trenches, recrossed the rocky bed of the Cavery, under an extremely heavy fire, passed the glacis and ditch, and ascended the breaches in the *fausse braye*, and rampart of the fort, surmounting in the most gallant manner, every obstacle which the difficulty of the passage, and the resistance of the enemy, presented, to oppose their progress. Major-general Baird had divided his force, for the purpose of clearing the ramparts to the right and left. One division was commanded by Colonel Sherbrooke, the other by Lieutenant-colonel Dunlop; the latter was disabled in the breach, but both corps, though strongly opposed, were completely successful. Resistance had been made from the palace of Tippoo, some time after all firing had ceased from the works.

General Harris only gave Tippoo twenty-four hours to consider the propositions which it was deemed expedient to make to him, respecting our operations against the fort of Seringpatam. These were transmitted by a *vakeel*, April 28, but Tippoo returned no answer, obstinately persevering in his determination of defending his capital to the last.

May 4. The breach being now practicable, it was resolved to commence the attack, and at three o'clock in the morning, the flank companies of every corps in the field, besides two or three European regiments complete, moved down to the trenches, where they sat for some time, in anxious expectation of the signal; during which time they kept up an incessant fire. The storming party, under the command of General Baird, began to move on, covered by a constant fire from the batteries, and suffering a very galling one of grape from the fort. Great anxiety pervaded the English troops for a quarter of an hour, till they saw their colours hoisted on the ramparts. Loud acclamations of joy then resounded from all parts, and the breast of every British soldier was fired with enthusiasm. The enemy soon abandoned the ramparts, after the English had reached them; in about half an

hour, the fire in the fort had entirely ceased, and the British flag was triumphantly displayed in every part of it.

Soon after the storm, 300 grenadiers rushed into the palace, and were about to plunder it, when they were called off. Those within it immediately shut the gates, and the 33d regiment, and a native corps drew up in front. At this critical time, Tippoo Sultaun, with his Sultana, sons, treasure, &c. were all in the palace. A little before the attack, Tippoo had been making merry with his family; and by the cheerfulness of his countenance, seemed to bid defiance to his adversaries. Major Allan now came up with a flag of truce from General Baird, and after explaining to those who were in the balcony, that no violence should be offered, desired the Sultaun to be called. They replied, that he was wounded; that they did not know whether he was in the palace or not, but that they would look for him. After much delay, it was suspected that this was only a pretence to give him time to make his escape, upon which the general ordered a six-pounder to be brought in front of the gate, and told them if the Sultaun did not immediately make his appearance, he would burst it open. They then positively declared, he was not in the palace, but that his sons would come out immediately. They waited again for some time, but the sons not making their appearance, Major Allan, carrying the flag of truce, and accompanied by two other officers, went in, and returned in about half an hour, with the two princes, who, though they seemed to hide their depression of spirits, could not but manifest that they felt their situation. Being asked what servants should attend them to the camp, they very nobly replied, "that they had now no right to order:" and when the general told them that they had only to name the persons whom they wished for, and that they should accompany them, the younger said, with a tear starting in his eye, "We could have called for many this morning, but now, I fear, there are but few remaining."

General Baird, who behaved to them with much kindness, gave them in charge to Major Agnew, who conveyed them in palanquins to head-quarters.

It being now near sun-set, every one was desirous to secure, if possible, the Mysorean chief. After much inquiry, they found a person, who seemed to be a man of consequence, but his name was unknown. He said, that Tippoo Sultaun had been killed in endeavouring to escape. This man was immediately seized, and threatened with immediate death, if he did not show the place. Accordingly, he led the way to

a kind of gateway, leading to a bridge across the ditch: there, in a place about four feet wide and twelve feet long, were upwards of seventy dead bodies, and Tippoo's palanquin appeared in the midst of them.\* Immediate search was then made for his body, but so numerous were the slain, that it was a full hour before he was discovered. The unfortunate Tippoo had received a shot in his arm at the time of the storm, for he was himself on the ramparts: after this, in endeavouring to make his escape, he was met by a party of Europeans, who wounded him in the side with a bayonet; he had also received a shot in the temple, which put an end to his existence. The body was recognised by his relatives, and some of the palanquin-boys, and was still warm when discovered. He had his sabre clenched fast in his hand.

The Nizam's troops discovered great pleasure, indeed savage satisfaction, when the body was exposed to view; but the English observed the utmost order and decorum. Such a speedy termination to the war not being expected, the former cried with exulting voices, "Seringapatam is taken—the tyrant is dead—his sons and family are prisoners, and all his treasure is at our disposal." General Harris issued orders to suppress their impetuosity.

The surrender of this strong fort, at such a critical time, was particularly fortunate; for the army had only three days grain remaining. When the news was announced at Madras, it was celebrated by a general and brilliant illumination.

Two days prior to the capture of Seringapatam, Tippoo held a durbar (or council), attended by all his chiefs, who advised him to cede more territory to his besiegers, and the payment of a large sum of money; but Tippoo seeing that his adversaries had already one half of his dominions, strenuously opposed the measure, and dismissed the council.

Tippoo Sultaun was rather above the middle size, stout, corpulent, and well made. He dressed rather plain, and his head was shaved close. He was in his 51st year when killed, and was interred, agreeable to the supplication of his family, on the left side of his father, in Laul Baug, with all the ceremonies and honours of the place.

His will, and the treaty concluded between him and the French Directory, were found in the palace: the latter was inclosed in an elegant little box, which was very remarkable, as it discovered the sanguine hopes entertained by the deceased chief of his hostile plans against the British government.



Many of Tippoo's chiefs were slain, particularly Syed Saheb, Meer Saduc, Syed Kofar, &c. His brother Kerim Saheb sought refuge with Meer Allum Bahauder.

Tippoo's sons, though suspected at first of dissimulation, behaved with the utmost candour and sincerity. They did not know of their father's death, and were absolutely in search of him, as they had declared. They made no hesitation in surrendering themselves to General Harris, though their resistance, at first, was vigorous. Recollecting the kind treatment they had experienced from Lord Cornwallis, they doubted not but they should now meet with equal civility. The two first captive sons sent to their three brothers, and strictly enjoined them to follow their example.

The news of Tippoo's death filled all the ladies of the Zenanna with the utmost consternation; not on account of any partiality for the chief, but through an apprehension of what frequently attends conquests in these countries; for the natives of India, in all their victories, never pay that respect which is due to the female sex. These apprehensions were, however, soon removed by the politeness of the British commander, who sent a flag, immediately after the surrender of the place, to assure them of his protection. His attention to the Sultana, whose sorrow on this occasion was truly sincere, does him equal honour.

This lady is delicately formed, and the lines of her face so regular and placid, that a physiognomist would have had little difficulty to pronounce her of a tranquil and amiable temper; her dress was generally a robe of white muslin, spotted with silver, and round her neck rows of beautiful pearls, from which hung a pastagon, consisting of an emerald and a ruby of considerable size, surrounded with a profusion of brilliants. She is about twenty years of age, and for a complete form and captivating appearance, rivalled all Mysore.

Among the poor prisoners who had suffered long confinement in a dark dungeon, was a descendant of the Hindoo King of Mysore, whom Hyder Ally dethroned. There were several British officers, supposed dead, who were found still living in these horrid prisons.

General Baird, who had now taken an active part in defeating the tyrant, had formerly suffered three years confinement in this prison, during which time he was loaded with irons and experienced the most cruel treatment.

Considering the magnitude of this enterprise, our loss was inconsiderable, but that

of the enemy was very great. Upwards of three millions of treasure were found in the palace.

Mangalore is to be added to the British territory in India; a circumstance not more important in the benefit it will render to our commerce and marine, than in depriving the enemy of a port in which they found protection and relief.

The partition of the treasures and other spoils of Seringapatam is thus arranged: the arms and military stores are to be given to the king; one clear moiety of all the other produce to the besieging troops, and the other moiety to the East India Company. In Lord Cornwallis's expedition against the Mysore country, the Company ceded their portion of the booty to the brave captors; but so great are the spoils at present, that it is thought the allotted share will amply compensate their services, though eminent in the greatest degree.

The standard of Mysore was sent by General Harris to Fort William: it is of light green silk, with a red hand represented in the middle, and was never hoisted but on the palace in Seringapatam.

This history cannot be concluded better than by quoting the singular and just catastrophe which was predicted of this tyrant by an eminent writer:—"He would continue to advance till he came to a point from which there was no receding, and then, like a stag at bay, he would terminate his career of despotism, cruelty, and oppression."

---

We now resume our account of the Isle of France, up to the period when the Ambassadors of Tippoo had left it, in March, 1798.

*A Continuation of the late Events which took place in the Isle of France, until 1800.*

1798. There only remained in the Isle of France the skeletons of the two old regiments of the Isle of France and Bourbon. The Colonial Assembly, by diminishing the number of the soldiers in the colony, flattered themselves that they should more easily retain them in their duty; and, in fact, until May, 1798, the tranquillity of the island was not disturbed: but, at this epoch, these two regiments having also formed the same project of proclaiming liberty to the slaves, the Colonial Assembly obtained an order from General Malartic for the two companies of grenadiers to embark on board the frigate *la Seine*, then ready to sail on a cruize. The grenadier

companies may be said to be the soul, and to contain the energy, of the French regiments, whether good or bad. Those, therefore, who wished to excite trouble in the colony, perceiving, by the embarkation of the two companies of grenadiers, that all their plots would be disconcerted, thought it absolutely necessary to execute the plan of insurrection which they had been so long fomenting. They accordingly represented to these grenadiers, that the order for their embarkation on the *Seine* frigate had been obtained from General Malartic by surprise, and that, instead of going upon a cruize, they were to be sent to Tippoo Sultaun, with whose cruelty and despotism they were well acquainted: that this project had been formed by the Colonial Assembly, for their destruction, as might be proved by the destination of their comrades to Batavia, a colony remarkable for the unhealthiness of its climate.

The grenadiers were easily persuaded by these insinuations, and refused to obey the order for their embarkation. General Malartic represented to them their crime in not obeying, and condescended so far as to assure them, that they were not to be landed in the states of Tippoo Sultaun, but were only to reinforce the crew of the *Seine*, that was too weak, and to go on a cruize, which would give them an opportunity of making rich captures, and consequently, of having good shares in the prizes: this, however, did not satisfy the grenadiers.

General Malartic then threatened to force them to obey his orders; but they insolently answered him, that he would find it a difficult undertaking; and in spite of the entreaties of the greatest part of their officers, on the 24th of April, in the afternoon, they caused all their comrades in the other companies of their regiments to mutiny, and take arms. They got possession of eight field-pieces, which were in their quarter, and broke open the doors of the armoury, where the cartouches and cartridges were kept. Fortunately the officers of these regiments, the most part of whom were still of the ancient government, and almost all of them attached to the colony, as well by the ties of blood, as by their possessions, succeeded in preventing the soldiers from coming out of their quarters in arms (as they several times wanted to do), by remaining there, in order to keep them, if it were possible, from any act of violence.

Thus the night passed, the soldiers remaining through the whole of it under arms in their quarters. The news of this insurrection of the garrison was soon spread in every quarter of the island, and orders had been sent to all parts of it, for every man capable of bearing arms to come to the town in the course of the night.

At day-break, the 25th of April, the alarm was beat in the town by the drummers of the national guard; and every one eagerly flew to the post that had been assigned him; confident that this day would decide the fate of the colony.

In the course of the night, every means had been prepared to attack the soldiers, who, fortunately, had remained in their quarters. In a moment, the whole national guard of the colony was assembled; a battery of four pieces of cannon and two howitzers, were planted upon a hill which commanded the court of the barracks, where the soldiers were still in arms. Twelve field-pieces, served by the young people of the colony, who had been particularly instructed in this service, and four columns of the national guard, advanced each on different sides to attack the quarters. The companies of this national guard, in which there were some *Sans-culottes*, were posted so as to be kept in awe. All these dispositions having been executed with the greatest celerity, General Malartic, accompanied by the members of the Committee of Public Safety of the Colonial Assembly, and at the head of the national guard, summoned the mutinous companies of the grenadiers, to embark immediately on board the *Seine* frigate, to go on a cruize; informing them, at the same time, that if they persisted in their refusal, he would employ the force which he possessed. The matches were lighted on both sides, and cartridges distributed; the muskets were loaded, and every thing announced the disastrous consequences of such a combat. The grenadiers, however, persisted in their refusal, when providence, who watched over the colony, suggested to the members of the Committee of Public Safety of the Colonial Assembly, to cause an order to be given by General Malartic, to the two regiments to embark for France; to which they should be carried by the *Seine* frigate and by another large merchant vessel, which would be prepared for them; granting them till noon, to make up their knapsacks, collect their linen, and depart. The soldiers, after much hesitation, accepted of this order or proposal, and the same day at noon, April 25, 1798, the Isle of France was freed from 800 armed stipendiaries of the French republic, who had conspired its overthrow, but which the good conduct of their officers, the greatest part of whom remained behind in the colony, added to the courage and reuniting of the inhabitants, preserved from the destruction that threatened it.\*

The Isle of France being, as it were, miraculously delivered from the two agents whom the Directory had sent there, with about a thousand soldiers inflamed with

\* This frigate, *La Seine*, was taken off the coast of France, and carried to England.

enthusiasm for the republic, who accompanied them, and having likewise freed themselves by their courage, from an equal number of soldiers, who, seconded by the discontented subjects of the colony, had conspired its ruin, by manifesting open rebellion to the orders of their chief, looked forward with confidence to a state of tranquillity. It no longer contained in its bosom any individual, who would not be interested in its preservation, being fortunately governed by a general, who, although holding his place under the French government, had no other wish than that of the Colonial Assembly. This Assembly, renewed every year, by the nomination of the citizens of the colony, could have no other interest, nor any other design, than its happiness and prosperity.

But the power of the governor was now become entirely dependant on the will of individuals, and discord soon arose among them, respecting the laws about to be established for the repayment of debts contracted in paper currency; the depreciation of which had increased in such a proportion, that it at length represented but a thousandth part of the nominal sum it expressed. The depreciation of this paper currency, issued in the colony by the administrators, in the name of the French Republic, unfortunately was not settled, till it was fallen to that point of debasement, by a deposit of merchandize in the magazines of the general commune; certain quantities of which, fixed by the law in this respect, were given to every bearer of paper currency, who wished to exchange it.

As soon as intelligence reached the Isle of France respecting the laws, which the two governing Councils of France had decreed, relative to the payment of these debts, contracted at the time of the paper currency, the creditors, who were greatly favoured by them, demanded the execution of it. The debtors, on the other hand, represented with force and truth, that the circumstance in general, under which the different contracts had been made in the colony, being different from those which had taken place in France, it would be evidently unjust to apply the same laws, when there was an apparent difference, both in the manner, situation, and contracts of the colony. In this shock of discordant interests, the Colonial Assembly being directed alone by past circumstances, adopted a mode of payment founded on the principles of justice; and this unpleasant business was on the point of being finally arranged, when the creditors excited a conspiracy, in order to dissolve the Assembly, and obtain colonial laws more favourable to their interests.

Blinded by their views of personal interest, and without reflecting on the conse-



quences of their conduct, they associated themselves with all the discontented people and *Sans-culottes* of the colony, who were ever ready to take a part with those who wanted to excite insurrection and disorder.

It was in the afternoon of the 4th of November, 1799, when the conspiracy burst forth in the town of the North-west Port, at three o'clock; an hour, when the greatest part of the most respectable inhabitants are accustomed to retire to rest, during the sultry part of the day. The conspirators caused the alarm to be beat at the top of the great street, a kind of suburb, where they principally resided. The Governor-general Malartic, hearing the alarm beat without his orders, sent immediately one of his aides-du-camp, to be informed of the cause of this alarm, and take the necessary measures to put an end to it. The municipality also repaired to its post, and sent likewise one of its officers to support the orders of the general; but neither the aid-de-camp, nor the municipal officer were listened to by the conspirators, who assembled in arms, and formed themselves in a body near the drummers. The aid-de-camp and the municipal officer, not being able, by their representations, to hinder them from continuing to beat the alarm, endeavoured to snatch the drumsticks from the drummers; but they were prevented, and a pistol was fired at both of them, but fortunately without effect. The drummers continuing to beat, the conspirators continued to increase, till they amounted to about six hundred. They then hastened to the parade, to get possession of the field-pieces in the court of the municipality. These field-pieces belonged to the company of flying artillery, which was composed of chosen young men, all of them addicted to good order, and zealous for the honour of their corps. The alarm was no sooner heard by these young men, than they hurried to their post; but their cannon were already in the hands of the conspirators. Impelled, however, by their courageous spirit, and without reflecting that they had only their sabres to defend themselves against men armed with loaded muskets and bayonets, they rushed upon them to retake their cannon; but notwithstanding their courage, they were necessarily repulsed by the fire of the conspirators, who were superior in number. Several of them fell the victims of their rashness, and the rest were obliged to retreat. The conspirators, being now in possession of the parade, the field-pieces and magazines, placed sentinels every where, to prevent the other inhabitants from assembling; and loudly demanded of General Malartic to dissolve the Colonial Assembly.

The different members of that Assembly, although informed of the dangers that threatened them, hastily collected in one of the halls of Justice which looked on the parade, in order the better to take their resolutions, according to the events which might take place before them.

General Malartic, during the tumult, came into the hall where the Colonial Assembly was collected. The conspirators entered in arms, threatening the General and the Assembly with great fury, if it did not immediately dissolve itself. Citizen Journal was then president, who, by the bravery and steadiness he had shewn, in all the critical occasions in which the Assembly had found itself, had acquired the esteem of the whole colony. This moment of terror and threats brought with it new honour to him. His answer to the conspirators, who only waited for the signal to tear him to pieces, was as firm and courageous, as if he had presided at a moment of the greatest tranquillity. "Citizens," said he to them, "neither your threats, nor the sight of your bayonets, pointed against our breasts, will induce the Assembly to dissolve itself, if it does not believe it necessary for the tranquillity of the colony. It is your duty to withdraw, and leave it to examine at leisure, and with wisdom, the decision it may make in regard to your demands."

The cries of fury were redoubled at this answer. The conspirators then addressed themselves to General Malartic, as the representative of the metropolis; and this respectable old man, thinking, by his condescension, to prevent greater mischiefs, pronounced the dissolution of the Colonial Assembly, which was succeeded by his intercession to save the most distinguished members from being murdered, several of the wretches having rushed forwards, and obliged them to escape by the back doors.

The consternation was general among all the respectable inhabitants of the town, who sought an instant refuge in the country, and availed themselves of the darkness of the night, to withdraw from the designs which the chief of the conspirators had planned against them. Nay, to such an height did they carry their insolence, that they made General Malartic sign an order to imprison twelve different members of the Assembly.

The town presented nothing but the aspect of a civil war. The *Sans-culottes*, supported by the creditors, who had likewise armed themselves, in order to dissolve the Colonial Assembly, were masters of all the posts in town: cannon were pointed, and fires lighted on all sides, lest the inhabitants in the country

should unite with the people of the town who had flown to them, and march against it. The country people, informed of the events in town, reflected maturely upon the re-establishment of good order, not wishing to compromise the fate of the colony, upon which their existence depended, by too hasty a movement of vengeance. The different districts consulted together, and agreed to march from their respective situations, against the town, on the morning of the 6th of November. This delay had already caused a great change in the minds of the conspirators, who had united to destroy the Colonial Assembly. Many of them who had been induced, without reflection, to wish for the dissolution of the Colonial Assembly, to prevent the passing of the law which it was preparing, for the reimbursement of the debts contracted during the course of depreciation of the paper currency, soon began to be alarmed at such an association, and to dread the misfortunes which their conduct was about to bring upon the colony. From that moment they refused to concur in the means which the *Sans-culottes* wanted to take, to prevent the country people from coming to re-establish order in the town. Terrified at being thus abandoned, and perceiving that their number was so small with that collected against them, they accordingly did not oppose any resistance, and suffered the different detachments from the country to enter quietly into the town, which accordingly took possession of all the posts, and formed a kind of camp on the parade.

Some very grievous enormities had been committed, and it was, perhaps, even imprudent not to punish them as they deserved. The colony, however, thought proper to be satisfied with the expulsion of the principal criminals, in order to avoid the spilling of blood, which had hitherto been avoided, in spite of all the storms of the French revolution; the murder of Macnamara not being imputable to it, since it had been committed by the soldiers, from whom it had afterwards delivered itself.

This resolution of the generality of the inhabitants, who were collected in the town, was submitted to the deliberation of the Directory representing the general commune of the colony, and of the municipality of the town of Port Louis, assembled together likewise, under the direction of General Malartic. A vessel, named the *Hyppolite*, was provided to carry the disturbers of the tranquillity of the colony to France, and on the 15th of November they set sail.

The Isle of France being thus freed from the principal ringleaders of this conspiracy, so fortunately terminated, found itself without a Colonial Assembly, which had been formally dissolved. The general opinion was, that it was necessary to

avail themselves of the present moment, to discover the best means of composing this first constituted authority, which the colony considered as the centre of its safety, now so difficult to preserve, in the critical situation in which it found itself with respect to France. It had dismissed its agents, driven out its soldiers, and persisted in its refusal to adopt the decree of abolishing slavery; at the same time it wished to remain a French colony, though acquainted with the dispositions of the French Directory, and the majority of the two councils to punish it. It was then resolved by the Governor-general Malartic, according to the desire of a committee, which was given him for a council, that the primary assemblies of the colony should name fifteen commissaries, eight for the country, and seven for town, to decide upon a better constitution to be given to the Colonial Assembly, which, till that time, had been composed of fifty-one members, who had been found too numerous; since in each shock the colony had undergone, several members of its Assembly had been the principal instigators, so that many of them had been actually proscribed, and exiled from it.

The conduct of the Colonial Committee was conformable to the general wish; and the number of its assembly was limited to twenty-one members, of whom fourteen were of the country, and seven of the town, who were to be named by the primary assemblies of each canton of the colony. This resolution was sanctioned by General Malartic, and carried into immediate execution. Such is the actual and definitive state of the Isle of France.

*Population and Military Force of the Isles of France and Bourbon in 1799.\**

Isle of Bourbon.			Isle of France.		
Slaves	-	48,000	Slaves	-	55,000
Whites and Mulattoes		8,000	Whites and Mulattoes		10,000
		<hr/>			<hr/>
Total		56,000	Total		65,000
Total of the two islands 121,000.†					

\* All the cannon of the Isle aux Tonneliers and Fort Blanc, which defend the entrance of Port Louis, may at present be worked with red-hot balls, by forming reverberating furnaces. The cannon of l'Isle de la Passe, which defend the entrance of Port Bourbon, may also be worked with red-hot balls.

† The population of Port Louis (or du Port du Nord-ouest), is esteemed to be three-fifths of that of the whole Isle of France.

*Armed Force of the Isle of France.*

National guard, Whites, and Mulattoes	-	-	-	2000
Black and Mulatto slaves to be armed as chasseurs, or to serve the artillery				3000
				<hr/>
Total of the armed force				5000
				<hr/>

N. B. It is only since the year 1798, that the taxes have sufficed for the interior expences of the Isle of France, as the Colonial Assembly then established a custom-house, to receive a tax on importation from five to ten per cent. on all merchandise brought to the colony by neutral ships. This tax was reduced to two-thirds for French vessels.

*Expence of the Isle of France in 1798, to be charged to the French Republic.*

N. B. In 1798, there were but 800 regular troops, who were driven out of the Isle of France this same year.

					piastres *
For 800 regular troops, the staff and extraordinaries				299,302	†
Fortification	-	-	-	19,335	
Artillery	-	-	-	10,560	:
Port	-	-	-	33,297	
Hospital	-	-	-	53,892	
Administration	-	-	-	27,216	
Marine of the Port and Cayenne (prison ship)				10,163	
Six hundred rationnaires		-	-	28,758	
Support of the Blacks of the Republic			-	27,632	
Pensions granted to several persons			-	1,229	
Divers minute expences		-	-	1,897	
Garden of the Republic (M. Séré)		-	-	927	
				<hr/>	
				Hard piastres	514,208
				<hr/>	
				Spanish dollars, about	£100,000
				<hr/>	

\* The piastre is almost five shillings English.

† All this expence was to be suppressed after the inhabitants dismissed the regular troops, consequently, the expence for the preservation of the isle, does not cost 200,000 piastres, or £40,000. sterling, and they find the means of levying this sum upon the exterior commerce of the island.



By a law of the Colonial Assembly, passed in 1799, the corn of the country was received in the public magazines, at four piastres the hundred weight. The price of foreign rice varies from one to four piastres the hundred weight. That of the country, as it is better and fresher, is never under two piastres the hundred weight.

*The present State of Agriculture in the Isle of France, as given by an Inhabitant of that Island, who arrived in London in 1800.*

The soil of this island is very diversified. Although, by its climate, it is adapted for all colonial productions, it has not equally answered to all the different kinds of cultivation which the inhabitants have endeavoured to naturalize.\* The plantations of coffee, being of the most simple culture, and requiring less expence and establishments, were the first which they adopted; but other objects of culture, such as cotton, having appeared more profitable, coffee has not become so general as it would otherwise have been. The cotton, which had promised such advantageous returns, has likewise been neglected in its turn, for the same reason; because the cultivation of indigo was become the most popular; but the great profit which the first sugar plantations afforded, has induced them to establish some wherever they could procure a quantity of water above the level of the earth, sufficient to work a sugar mill. Several sugar plantations have already proved successful, and many others are expected equally to succeed. Unfortunately, the mountains, though covered with fine trees, have been found, in certain spots, to have a white stone or rock too near the mould,† but those who have suffered from this inconvenience have indemnified themselves, for the present, by felling woods.‡

\* The inhabitants complain that the soil is not sufficiently fertile, although it is very rich in natural productions; but the fact is, that they continually exhaust it, never letting it remain fallow, nor supplying it with the necessary manure.

† It is not astonishing that the mould on the brows of the mountains should become dry, or be carried away by the running waters, when the trees have been cut down which preserved and defended it from the sun, winds, and waters; and, when no expence is made to defend it against these natural inconveniences: on the contrary, the soil is exhausted by two harvests in the year. Had not the soil been originally excellent, it would not have produced such fine trees as are found upon it, and which are continually felled without regularity or measure.

‡ This felling of the woods ought to be observed and controuled by the administration; as the inhabitants, to accelerate their fortunes, will soon have laid waste the whole island; so that it will

*Colonial Commodities which the Isle of France may produce in 1800.*

Price during the present war,

Coffee, -	6000 bales, of 100 pounds French,	from 8 to 20 piastres the bale.
Indigo, -	300,000 pounds weight, good year,	from 2 to 8 shillings per lb.
Cotton, -	2000 bales of 250 pounds, -	from 8 pence to 2 shillings per lb.
Raw sugar,	20,000,000 pounds weight, -	from 4 to ten piastres the quintal.
Cloves, -	20,000 pounds, - - -	from $\frac{1}{3}$ to 1 piastre per lb.

*The Isle of Bourbon, at present called Reunion.*

Coffee, about 60,000 bales.

Cotton, 2,000 bales.

Two or three sugar plantations for the consumption of the island.

Cloves, 60,000 lb.

*New Division of the Isle of France.\**

No. 1. Municipality of the North-west Port, extends from the river *des Lataniers*, the boundary of the Municipality of Moka, to the *Grande rivière*.

No. 2. Municipality of Pamplemousses—from the river *des Lataniers*, the limits of the municipality of Moka, of the Three Islets, and of the *rivière du Rempart*, as far as the Great Bay.

No. 3. Municipality *du Rempart*—from the *Grande Baie*, the boundary of the municipality *des Pamplemousses*, and of the Three Islets, as far as the French river.

No. 4. Municipality of Flack—from the French river, the boundary of the municipality of the Three Islets, to the *rivière Seche*.

No. 5. Municipality of the Three Islets—from *la rivière Seche*, the boundary of the municipality of Flack, of the Rempart, of Pamplemousses, and of Moka, to the Deep river, or Great river of the Great Port.

then become uninhabitable. It is high time to remedy it. There is still more than half the island covered with most beautiful woods, and it would be very impolitic to let one of the finest and most productive spots of the globe be destroyed, blest as it is with an healthy climate and magnificent harbours. Finally, the greatest advantages might be derived from it were the inhabitants richer, or less eager to make rapid fortunes.

\* This new division is marked on the Map of the Isle of France, placed at the beginning of the Volume.

No. 6. Municipality of the Great Port Bourbon (at present called the Port of Fraternity)—from the Great river, the boundary of the municipality of the Three Islets, of Moka, and of the Plains of Willhems, to the river *du Poste*.

No. 7. Municipality of the Savannah—from the River *du Poste*, the boundary of the Plains of Willhems, to the Bay of the Cape.

No. 8. Municipality of the Plains of St. Pierre and Black river—from the Bay of the Cape, the boundary of the Savannah, and of the Plains of Willhems, to the Little river.

No. 9. Municipality of the Plains of Willhems—from the Little river, the boundary of the municipality of the Black river, of the Savannah, of the Great Port, and of Moka, to the Great river of Port North-west.

No. 10. The municipality of Moka—comprised between those of the North-west Port, of the Plains of Willhems, of the Great Port, of the Three Islets, and of Pamplémousses.

*Actual State of the Price of the Commodities in 1800.*

	s.	d.
Beef, kid, mutton, - - - - -	about 1	0 per lb.
Pork, - - - - -	0	6
A hen, - - - - -	2	6
A chicken, - - - - -	1	0
A duck, - - - - -	from 2 to 3	0
A goose, - - - - -	from 7 to 8	0
A turkey, - - - - -	from 10 to 12	0
A pair of pigeons, - - - - -	from 2 to 6	0

Bread and wine fluctuate, according to the commerce in time of war.

Wine, from the price of Europe, to eight times higher.

Bread, from the price of Europe, to four times higher.

N. B. All the inhabitants having commodities to dispose of, and seldom buying any, it is their interest to sell them dear to foreigners, who come hither for the purposes of commerce.

In the Isle of France a plantation entirely cleared, may be bought for £1500. (6000 piastres) with about thirty slaves of both sexes, reckoned, on an average, at about £30. each. This plantation would produce sufficient to support a family in great comfort. Only half of the purchase-money must be paid down.

*Remarks on the Isle of France, in 1800.*

First. The Isle of France imports from Europe almost all its necessities and objects of consumption, except linen, cotton, and stuffs, which it obtains from the coasts of Coromandel and Bengal; China ware and silk from China; its corn is partly of its own growth, and of the Isle of Bourbon; the surplus consumption of its bread and biscuit is imported in flour from Europe and New England. It imports its rice, (besides what it grows itself,) from Madagascar and other parts of India; its slaves, for the most part, are brought from the coast of Africa, and Madagascar.

Second. In 1779, all the business was solely carried on in the commodities of the colony, or in piastres (a Spanish coin, value about five shillings English). There was still in circulation the paper currency issued by the administrators in the name of the French republic; but as it was constantly diminishing in value, the Colonial Assembly settled it irrevocably in 1798, by a depôt of merchandize destined for the payment of the paper currency then in circulation; the value of which to money was only in proportion of one to a thousand: so that a stamp paper currency or note for ten thousand francs was then only worth ten francs in commerce. On this basis the redemption of the paper currency was ultimately fixed.

Third. The plan of forming the Isle of France into a general entrepôt has not been followed up; 1st, Because it is more advantageous to obtain all articles of merchandize from the place itself, which produces or manufactures them. 2d, Because, although the Indian sailors have much less pay than those of Europe, this point alone does not render the navigation of vessels in India more economical, or more advantageous, than the navigation of European vessels; as the latter navigate them better, and a crew of European sailors does not amount to one-third of those required by the vessels of India.\*

\* The principal advantage which the Isle of France derives from its ports and situation, is that of its being a military depôt. On this account it would be necessary that its mother-country should have the superiority by sea. A commercial entrepôt would then be the natural consequence.

THE END.