

MEMORIAL,
ADDRESSED TO
THE COURT OF DIRECTORS
OF THE HONORABLE THE
EAST INDIA COMPANY,

BY
COLONEL JAMES WELSH,
OF THE MADRAS ESTABLISHMENT:
ACCOMPANIED BY COPIES OF
TWO UNANSWERED MEMORIALS
FROM THAT OFFICER,
FORWARDED FROM THE EAST INDIES IN THE YEARS 1807 AND 1810.

LONDON:
SMITH, ELDER, & CO. 65, CORNHILL.

1830.



DIRECTIONS FOR PLACING THE PLATES.

- Sketch, shewing the relative situations of Chocampetty, Courtallum,
 Pallancottih, and Intucotyn to face p 177
- Sketch of the Barracks, Mosque, Tacquer's Hut, &c. &c to face p 205

A

MEMORIAL,

&c. &c.

TO THE COURT OF DIRECTORS OF THE
HONORABLE THE EAST INDIA COMPANY.

HONORABLE SIRS,

UNDER a firm impression that your Honorable Court is always willing to receive and attend to the respectful appeals of your far-distant Servants in the East, and, even where you cannot approve, at least to decide on them; I feel assured that accident, and the pressure of matters of greater importance, at the time of their arrival, could alone have caused my Memorials of the 3rd April, 1807, and the 23rd April, 1810, to be laid aside, and subsequently forgotten.

Having so long and so anxiously looked forward in vain for those decisions, which the separate cases might appear to merit, I trust I may now, however late, presume to recal the subject to the notice of your Honorable Board, and to solicit a perusal of the following copies of originals already forwarded through the regular channels; by which I venture to presume it will appear, that the only return for a zealous and faithful discharge of my duty, was censure after

acquittal, and heavy pecuniary losses, in the first instance; added to the deprivation of what is generally conceived an established right, in the second.

It might naturally have been supposed, that the after event of the Travancore War, would have removed that bar to my advancement of which I originally complained; but this was by no means the case; and nothing but the long subsequent appointment of the kind and upright Sir Thomas Munro to the Government of Madras, to whom I was fortunately well known, could, in all human probability, have ever enabled me to revisit my native land on the allowances of my rank, after a service of forty years, and thus to address myself direct to your Honorable Board.

In conclusion, I beg leave most respectfully to urge, that the very considerable delay which has occurred in noticing transactions of such a distant period, as it has in reality been an increasing injury to my fortune, cannot fairly be supposed to have weakened my claim to your kind consideration, provided you shall find that I was originally entitled to your regard.

I have the honor to be,

Honorable Sirs,

Your most obedient and
faithful Servant,

JAMES WILSH,
Colonel, Madras Establishment.

Cheltenham.
August 11, 1830.

(COPY).

*To Messrs. Parry and Grant, Chairman and Deputy of
the Court of Directors.*

GENTLEMEN,

HAVING taken my passage in the Earl Spencer, which sails next month for India, I am obliged to give in my Official Appeal to the justice of my Honorable Employers, without waiting any longer for intelligence of the arrival of the Right Honorable Lord W. C. Bentinck's promised Dispatch, at the India House; and as I have had several hints since I came to this country, that my motives and object in that Appeal were not fully understood by some of the Gentlemen composing the Honorable Court, and that they conceived the Acquittal of a Court Martial was all the justice I could in reason expect, I take the liberty to state for their information, the grounds on which I presume to intrude upon them.

In April 1805, when only a Captain, having been previously recommended to the Commander-in-Chief and Government by the Honorable Sir Arthur Wellesley, I obtained the command of the 1st Battalion 3rd Regiment N. I. It was then in the field, on the Peishwah's frontier, in an expensive and unhealthy country. After remaining in the Mahratta territories seven months longer, I received orders to march the Corps back singly to the Carnatic.

It may be easily conceived, that a journey of 900 miles through a country unfrequented, and lately the seat of famine and death, could not but be attended with considerable expence; and the wear and tear of camp equipage alone, in a march of three months and a half, is no trifle in India.

No sooner was it known at Madras that this distinguished Corps was ordered back into garrison in the Carnatic, than several applications were made to Head-Quarters for the command; among the rest was *Colonel Dyce*, who commanded the fort and district where it was stationed; and he (though a man of great interest) was refused, with this reply: "That Captain Welsh had long served with the Corps, and commanded it in the field, at considerable expence, and therefore it was the Commander-in-Chief's determination to allow him to enjoy the benefit of it in garrison."—(For the truth of this I appeal to the Commander-in-Chief, Sir John Cradock, and the Adjutant-General, Colonel Agnew).—I further know, that at the time I disarmed the Corps at Pallamcottah, it was determined at Madras that I should be appointed to the command of Madura, with my own Corps to form the garrison.

I readily acknowledge, that I had no title whatever (arising from rank) to either situation; but I must contend, that having obtained the one, and been deemed deserving of the other, as a reward for supposed services, the unqualified censure of the Governor in

Public Orders, in opposition to the sentence of a respectable and competent tribunal, and to the wishes and opinions of the Commander-in-Chief (who had issued an Order of a very different complexion, and had restored me to my Command), was an injustice which fully warrants my Appeal; for it was not customary for the Governor to interfere with the Commander-in-Chief, in the appointment and removal of Lieutenant-Colonels to Battalions, which in this instance his Lordship certainly did, by preventing the removal of Lieutenant-Colonel Vesey to the 7th Regiment, from which he had been called in December, prior to my Trial, on purpose to supersede me in the command of the 1st Battalion 3rd Regiment.

By my sudden removal from the Corps in December 1806, when on the march from Pallamcottah to Trichinopoly, I was forced to leave all my accounts unsettled, and (independent of my allowances being reduced to one-third) I received from Lieutenant-Colonel Vesey (by the award of a Committee) only 450 pagodas for public camp-equipage and cattle, which had cost me upwards of 1200, and for a very small part of which I had voluntarily paid him nearly 800 pagodas the year before.

My Memorial states the situation in which I was placed on the 3rd April last year; a situation entirely resulting from the treatment I had received for a faithful, and, I may add, spirited discharge of my duty.

Distress of mind had increased a disorder which ease and comfort had before nearly eradicated; and I

was at last forced to return to this country to save my life, having borrowed upwards of £1200 sterling before I could leave India; and to sum up the whole in a few words, I may safely assert, that by the time of my return to Madras, my expences, since I was torn from my Command, will not fall short of £3000, in which period my pay will have amounted to about £800.

I trust it will therefore be evident to you, that the continuation of a public censure against me, must be attended with the most distressing consequences to my family, who look up to me for support, and that the interposition of my Honorable Masters can alone relieve me fully from its effects, and enable my future services to be crowned with that success, which I trust they shall merit, at the hands of a liberal Government.

I have the Honor to be,

&c. &c.

Blackheath,
April 14, 1808.

(Signed) J. WELSH,
Major, Madras Establishment.

(COPY).

*To the Honorable Court of Directors of the Honorable
East India Company.*

HONORABLE SIRS,

HAVING addressed a Memorial to your Honorable Court on the 3rd April last year, through the Commander-in-Chief and Governor of Fort St. George, I had proceeded to sea for the benefit of

my health, when my complaint increased to such a degree, as to force me to return to this country.

After touching at Madras (where the ship was detained four days for public dispatches), I arrived here last November, in the fond hopes that my Official Memorial would have reached the India House by the same conveyance; that I should have been permitted to lay before your Honorable Court some further Documents on the subject, and that I should, long ere this, have received at the hands of my Honorable Employers, that decision which my case might appear to merit, and to which most of my Brother Officers in India are now looking anxiously forward. My disappointment was therefore great, when I found that two separate Dispatches arrived without my papers; as it precluded me from obtaining that justice which I am confident an attentive perusal would induce you to accord.

The recent arrival of a large fleet of Indiamen from that quarter, leads me now to hope that they may have reached your hands; at any rate, with the *enclosed authority* for my expectations, permit me to lay before you, and to solicit a perusal of the accompanying Manuscripts, which contain correct Copies of every Document connected with the subject, together with Notes of my own, in explanation of such parts as appeared to require them.

My health being somewhat improved, and the maintenance of my family imperiously demanding my return to my duty (for Major's bare pay in England is

totally inadequate to that purpose), I propose embarking next month in the Earl Spencer, and trust your Honorable Court will grant me as early a decision as the pressure of more important affairs will admit of.

It may be supposed that the subsequent recal of the Right Honorable Lord William Bentinck has in some measure removed the cause of my Memorial; but the effect has been most fatal to the interests of my family. A detail of particulars would exceed the bounds of a Letter; I shall therefore only add, that a reference to the following Gentlemen now in England, would satisfy you as to my general character and conduct in your service, and also with regard to many of the most material points connected with my late Trial, viz.

Major-General Campbell,

Lieutenant-Colonel Campbell, H. M. 94th Regiment,

Lieutenant-Colonel Dighton,

Lieutenant-Colonel Robertson,

Major Bryce, and

Mr. J. Cochrane, of the Civil Service, late Zillah Judge of Combeconum.

To the justice, wisdom, and liberality of your Honorable Court I have appealed, and do appeal, with confidence, for relief from unmerited difficulties and distress.

I have the Honor to be,

&c. &c.

Blackheath,
April 14, 1808.

(Signed) **J. WELSH,**
Major, Madras Establishment.

(COPY).

To Charles Grant, Esq. Deputy-Chairman, &c. &c. &c.

DEAR SIR,

As the Earl Spencer is now likely to sail in a few days, I grow more anxious to know the result of my appeal for justice from the Honorable Court of Directors. I trust you will therefore excuse the liberty I take, in requesting that you will have the goodness to favor me with a line, to inform me whether any decision has yet been passed, or whether it will be signified to me ere my departure from this country. As I am returning to my duty in that quarter where an unjust censure has been passed on my conduct, you may conceive how anxious I am to carry with me a justification from the fountain-head; and this public refutation of that stigma, can alone prevent my friends in England from publishing my Court Martial, and every other Document, to the world, as I shall leave them for that purpose, in case I am so unfortunate as not to meet with the avowed approbation of my Honorable Masters; as it will then be the only method left me, of counteracting the effects of Lord Bentinck's censure. But from the known liberality and justice of the Court of Directors, I have every reason to expect ample amends for my late sufferings (which have far exceeded what I have stated

in my official communications), provided they can find time to read my papers, or to inquire into the proofs of my allegations.

*Grote's Buildings,
Blackheath,
May 16, 1808.*

&c. &c. &c.

J. WELSH.

(COPY).

To Major James Welsh, Portsmouth.

*East-India House,
2nd June, 08.*

DEAR SIR,

I AM desired by the Deputy-Chairman to inform you, that it has not been discovered till this morning, that your Court Martial has been sent in the *Secret Department*, and that it will be taken into consideration as early as possible.

I am, Dear Sir,

Yours truly.

T. E. BAKER.

P. S.—Of course you not trouble yourself to forward the one from Portsmouth*.

* *Note*.—I had given in a Manuscript one, with Notes, but was informed the Court must have the original proceedings.—J WELSH.

Extract of a General Letter from the Honorable Court of Directors in the Military Department, dated 25th April, 1810.

General Orders on the Conduct of Lt.-Col. Grant & Major J. Welsh, respecting Distrust of Native Troops under his command. } 152. "We have received the Memorials you have forwarded from these Officers, upon the subject referred to in this paragraph, and shall hereafter communicate such observations thereon as may appear necessary*."

(True Extracts),

(Signed) J. H. PEILE,
Secretary to Government.

(True Extracts),

Ex^d A. DEFANZA. (Signed) P. A. AGNEW,
M. S.

Extract from the Minutes of the Honorable the Governor in Council, dated 6th November, 1810.

"Ordered, That a copy of this paragraph be sent to the Commander-in-Chief, for communication to the parties concerned."

(2167).

GENERAL ORDERS.

*Head-Quarters, Choultry Plam,
20th November, 1807.*

G. O. By the Commander-in-Chief.

The following Extracts from the Confirmed Proceedings of a General Court Martial assembled in Fort

* After twenty-three years waiting, this is the sole answer I have as yet received from the India House.—J. WELSH.

St. George on the 24th February, 1807, in virtue of authority from the Commander-in-Chief, and of which Major-General Dugald Campbell is President, are published to the Army.

CHARGES.

Major James Welsh, of the 3rd Regiment of the Native Infantry, placed in arrest by order of the Commander-in-Chief, for unofficer-like and precipitate conduct, disreputable to the military character, inconsistent with his duty as an Officer in command, and highly injurious to the public interests, in the following instances :

1st, In having, on the 19th day of November, 1806, when commanding as the Senior Officer present in the Fort of Pallamcottah, caused twenty Native Officers of the 1st Battalion 3rd Regiment of Native Infantry to be confined, and a large proportion of that Battalion to be disarmed, without any justifiable cause, adequate necessity, or deliberate investigations of the allegations on which a measure of such extremity was adopted.

2nd, In having, on the 19th day of November, 1806, expelled from the Fort of Pallamcottah, the Mahomedan troops of the garrison, whom he had previously caused to be disarmed, on vague suspicion of their general disaffection; thus tending to produce disunion and mutual distrust in the various classes of men composing the British Army in India.

3rd, In having addressed various Letters, written in terms not warranted by the occasion, but tending to excite alarm, to Ceylon, to Trichinopoly, and to

Travancore; and particularly in having addressed a Letter, dated the 20th of November, 1806, to the Officer commanding the troops at Quilon, asserting, as consistent with his positive knowledge, the existence of designs the most alarming, and urging distrust of the Mahomedan troops; thus creating false alarms in the quarters of the Travancore Subsidiary Force, and stimulating measures of the most injurious tendency to the general interests of the state.

By order of the Commander-in-Chief,

Fort St. George, (Signed) P. A. AGNEW,
13th December, 1806. Adjutant-General of the Army.

SENTENCE.

The Court, after the most serious deliberation on the several Charges, the Evidence adduced in support of them, and the Evidence brought by the Prisoner, Major Welsh, in his defence, say that he is not guilty of the first, second, and third charges, and do most honorably acquit him of the same.

(Signed) C. MARSH, (Signed) DUGALD CAMPBELL,
Acting Judge-Advocate-General, Major-General and President.

Approved and Confirmed,

Fort St. George, (Signed) J. F. CRADOCK.
March 7, 1807.

CHARGES.

Lieutenant-Colonel R. M. Grant, of the 2nd Battalion 6th Regiment of Native Infantry, ordered in arrest by the Commander-in-Chief,

1st, For conduct unofficer-like, and inconsistent with

his duty as commanding the Subsidiary Force in Travancore, in causing, on the 21st and 22nd days of November last, a large proportion of the Native Troops then under his command, to be disarmed, without any justifiable cause or adequate necessity.

2nd, For conduct highly disreputable to the military character, and injurious to the public interests, in adopting, without ascertaining its necessity by previous inquiry, a measure of such extremity; tending to excite mutual distrust between the European and Native Members of the Service.

By order of the Commander-in-Chief,

Fort St. George,
13th December, 1806.

(Signed) P. A. AGNEW,
Adjutant-General of the Army.

SENTENCE.

The Court having taken into their most serious attention the Charges preferred against the Prisoner, the Evidence adduced in support of them, the Defence of the Prisoner, and the Evidence adduced by him in his behalf, say, that the Prisoner, Lieutenant-Colonel Grant, is not guilty of either of the above charges, and do moreover honorably acquit him of the same.

(Signed) C. MARSH, (Signed) DUGALD CAMPBELL,
Acting Judge-Advocate-General, President and Major-General.

Approved and Confirmed,

(Signed) J. F. CRADOCK,
March 15, 1807. Lieutenant-General.

The General Court Martial, of which Major-General Campbell is President, is dissolved.

(Signed) P. A. AGNEW,
Adjutant-General of the Army.

Note.—A very satisfactory Order by the Commander-in-Chief, in which he congratulated Lieutenant-Colonel Grant and myself on the complete and honorable triumph we had obtained by the Sentence of a most respectable General Court Martial (selected by him to give weight to their decision), after we had been confined and degraded, through ignorance and mis-statement, was published, and ordered to be read with our sentences, but was suppressed at the particular desire of the Governor. The Commander-in-Chief, however, entered it in a Minute of Council, and allowed me the perusal of both, with injunctions not to copy them. I was to have been immediately reinstated in the command of my Corps, and it was his Excellency's intention, *after I had joined it, to remove me to the command of the other Battalion of the Regiment*, having afforded my feelings the grateful triumph of proving my innocence, in the most conspicuous manner, to the Native Army; and then giving me an equal command of a Corps which had not intended treacherously to murder their Officers. This would have atoned at once for all that I had suffered, and my private losses would not have been remembered; but the Right Honorable Lord W. Bentinck had determined otherwise; and the man whom he has acknowledged in private conversation (with two respectable individuals) to have done his duty, and acted with spirit and integrity, was to be further degraded, in support of his Lordship's almost insulated opinion of the loyalty and attachment of the Mussulmen of the 1st Battalion 3rd Regiment, &c. &c. My command was therefore withheld, and an Order published, of such an injurious tendency, that the Commander-in-Chief, at the suggestion of an Officer high in rank and situation (and who has been to me a most steady and kind friend), waited upon the Governor, and told him that the publication of such an Order would disgust the whole Army. His Lordship ordered the copy that had been inserted in the Garrison Orderly Book to be cut out immediately, and suppressed those for distant stations. This led me, and every body, to suppose that his Lordship had seen matters in their true light, and I waited upon him at his next levee; told him I hoped that my recent most honorable acquittal would now remove every sentiment to my prejudice, on the part of Government, and that I should now be restored to my just rights in the command of the Corps. As I have made it a rule not to assert any thing in these pages, that I cannot establish by respectable witnesses, and positive proof, and as his Lordship

(2169).

GENERAL ORDERS.

*Head-Quarters of the Army,
Choultry Plain, 22nd March, 1807.*

The Right Honorable the Governor in Council having addressed the subjoined Orders to the Commander-in-Chief, to be published to the Army, they are accordingly published in Military Orders.

Fort St. George, 20th March, 1807.

G. O. By Government.

The Commander-in-Chief has laid before Government the Proceedings of the Court Martial held upon Lieutenant-Colonel Grant and Major Welsh, and his Lordship in Council has seen with great satisfaction,

and I were alone at this our *only* meeting, I will only say, that his Lordship's answers were not calculated to be fully understood—he said he was only an individual, &c. &c. It would not have become me (in our then relative situations) to have told his Lordship, that I knew he was the *only* individual in the Government who stood in the way of my rights.

I therefore took my leave, and to my utter astonishment, the next day appeared the following mutilated Copy of the Order which he had lately recalled.

Having appealed through his Lordship to a higher authority, while I remained in India, I trust I may be allowed to assert the truth in England, without the fear of punishment for disrespect to the Government under which I served while there. My character and my commission are all that are now left me, and I thank God that they were never at his Lordship's disposal.—(Signed) J. WELSH.

the honorable vindication which the opinion of the Court has afforded to the reputation of Lieutenant-Colonel Grant and Major Welsh. His Lordship in Council is disposed entirely to concur in the purity of intention, and zeal for the public service, by which these Officers were actuated.

While the Court Martial have done justice to the Officers who have been arraigned before them, it is also the peculiar duty of his Lordship in Council—the guardian alike of the honor of all, of the Soldier as of the Sepoy, of the European as of the Native Officer—to express his deep concern, that the effect both of Lieutenant-Colonel Grant's and Major Welsh's conduct, must necessarily tend to the degradation and distrust of a large portion of a most loyal and faithful branch of our Army. His Lordship in Council, responsible for the public welfare, feels it his duty to make known to the Officers of the Army, his decided opinion, that such acts are most injurious to the best interests of the State. To involve the innocent with the guilty, and include in a sweeping implication of guilt, a numerous body of men, on the ground of general suspicion or apprehension, is a mode of proceeding which, on the immutable principles of justice, as well as on the soundest maxims of established policy, no just Government can tolerate, and which every wise Government must condemn: no fidelity, however staunch, can withstand such marked distrust. His Lordship in Council therefore, while with the

Court Martial he gives full credit to the honorable motives of Lieutenant-Colonel Grant and Major Welsh, cannot but deeply lament the impression which such acts must make upon the minds of the Native Troops.

To estimate the effects of such conduct to the interests of the British Empire, is the peculiar province of the Governor in Council. The present occasion appears to demand from Government the declaration of these general principles, wise and salutary in themselves, and most impressively inculcated by the highest authority in India: in the spirit of which, his Lordship in Council requires the cordial co-operation of all the Military and Civil Servants of the Company.

By order of the Right Honorable the Governor in Council,

(Signed) G BUCHAN,
Chief Sec. to Government.

By order of the Commander-in-Chief,

(Signed) P. A. AGNEW,
Adj.-Gen. of the Army.

Note.—Contrasted with this Order, and the subsequent punishment of both Officers, I beg leave to subjoin a Letter, extracted from the Life of Sir Thomas Munro:

(COPY).

PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL.

From Lord Wm. Bentinck to Lieutenant-Colonel Munro.

Fort St. George, August 2, 1806

MY DEAR SIR,

WE have every reason to believe, indeed, undoubtedly to know, that the emissaries and adherents of the Sons of Tippoo Sultan have

To His Excellency Lieutenant-General Sir J. F. Craddock, Commanding in Chief, &c. &c. &c. Fort St. George.

SIR,

I TAKE the liberty to forward a Letter for the Right Honorable the Governor in Council, enclosing a Memorial to the Court of Directors, which I humbly request your Excellency will favor with your support.

Humbly conceiving that every Soldier who feels himself aggrieved, has a right, in respectful language,

been most active below the Ghauts. Great reliance is said to have been placed upon the Gurrumcondah Poligars by the Princes. I recommend you to use the utmost vigilance and precaution; and you are hereby authorized, upon any symptom or appearance of insurrection, to take such measures as you may deem necessary. Let me advise you not to place too much dependance on any of the Native Troops. It is impossible at this moment to say how far both Native Infantry and Cavalry may stand by us, in case of need. It has been ingeniously worked up into a question of religion. The minds of the soldiery have been inflamed to the highest state of discontent and disaffection, and upon this feeling has been built the re-establishment of the Mussulman Government, under one of the Sons of Tippoo Sultan. It is hardly credible that such progress could have been made in so short a time, and without the knowledge of any of us; but, believe me, the conspiracy has extended beyond all belief, and has reached the most remote parts of our Army; and the intrigue has appeared to have been every where most successfully carried on. The capture of Vellore, and other decided measures in contemplation, accompanied by extreme vigilance on all parts, will, I trust, still prevent a great explosion.

I remain, my Dear Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

W. BENTINCK.

to appeal to the superior power for redress, I trust that no impropriety will be imputed to me, in the just defence of what is dearer to me than life—my Reputation.

*Fort St. George,
April 3, 1807.*

(Signed) **J. WELSH,**
Major, 3rd Reg. N. I.

*To the Right Honorable Lord W. C. Bentinck, Governor
in Council, &c. &c. &c. Fort St. George.*

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honor to forward a Memorial, which I have to request your Lordship in Council will do me the justice to submit to the Honorable the Court of Directors, together with the Proceedings of the General Court Martial on my Trial, and the subsequent Order published to the Army on the 20th ultimo, by your Lordship in Council, as a number in the first Dispatch to Europe.

I have the Honor to be,

With the highest respect,

My Lord,

Your Lordship's most obedient
and most humble Servant,

(Signed) **J. WELSH,**
Major, 3rd Reg.

April 3, 1807.

MEMORIAL*.

*To the Honorable the Court of Directors of the
Honorable East India Company, &c. &c. &c.*

HONORABLE SIRS,

CONVINCED that every moderate and respectful Appeal to your Honorable Court will meet with due consideration, I humbly presume to lay before you (through the regular channel) a case for decision, which I believe has no precedent on record in the annals of British India.

Referring to the Proceedings of a General Court Martial held at Fort St. George, for the express purpose of investigating my conduct, in having disarmed a large portion of the Corps I commanded, I take the liberty to call your attention to a subsequent Order of Government, under date the 20th ultimo, in which the Right Honorable the Governor in Council has been pleased to express sentiments on my conduct and measures, which I trusted my recent Trial had removed from every breast.

The satisfaction expressed by his Lordship, that the purity of my intentions and zeal for the service, have been established by that investigation, conveys little consolation to my mind; for until I read that

* Never answered.

Order, I never supposed that my intentions or zeal had ever admitted of a doubt.

A reference to the Charges will prove that it was for acts alone I was brought to trial; and I had naturally concluded, that after the fullest investigation, not only of those acts, but of their necessity and tendency (by a deliberate examination of Evidence on oath), I had been most honorably acquitted of all that variety of misconduct which is still imputed to me in the Government Order of the 20th of March.

The Sentence of the Court by which I was tried, declares me "Not Guilty" — it "most honorably acquits" me on every article of charge; and the confirmation and approval of the Commander-in-Chief, has given to that Sentence all the validity required by the Law.

Prejudged before any investigation had taken place, I was deprived of my Command, when I supposed I had merited commendation; and when suffering under the pressure of disease (contracted two years ago, in the course of active and zealous service, in the Mahratta country), I found myself accused of "unofficer-like and precipitate conduct, disreputable to the military character, inconsistent with my duty as an Officer in Command, and highly injurious to the public interests;" I did not shrink from inquiry, but, little as I was then fitted to bear the mental agitation (inseparable from such circumstances), I eagerly solicited a public Trial: conscious innocence, and the hope

of full and perfect justification, enabled me (ill as I then was) to struggle through it; for I then believed, that the power of the tribunal before which I was arraigned, was not restricted solely to the punishment of crimes.

If I was deceived, I have indeed mistaken the nature and object of a public Trial; but I can hardly believe I have been thus mistaken. It is not in reason to suppose, that a tribunal vested with the avenging power of punishing the guilty, even to death, by its sentence, shall be powerless when it stands forth to vindicate the innocent? Yet such is the inference to be drawn from the Order in question.

As I still firmly believe that the disloyal and treacherous designs imputed to the Corps I commanded, did exist, as declared in the recorded Evidence of my informers, to the extent which avowedly influenced my conduct, I should be wanting in justice to my own character, were I to acquiesce in the spirit of an Order which accuses me of having degraded and distrusted a large proportion of "*a most loyal and faithful branch of our Army.*"

As a duty therefore which I owe to my own reputation as a man, and a soldier, to the Army in which I bear a Commission, and to that highly respectable Court, whose sentence has most honorably acquitted me, I appeal for a decision so completely at variance with that sentence (as the Order of the 20th March last), to the wisdom and to the justice of your Honorable Court.

Having met with considerable losses, and been put to great expence, during two long and arduous campaigns in the Mahratta country (together with the long journey of near 900 miles back to the Carnatic, with a family), I had just begun to look forward in hopes of getting over pecuniary difficulties, when this (to me) unfortunate opportunity occurred, of proving my zeal, by an extraordinary exertion of energy (to suppress a meditated revolt). For this, besides the punishment already inflicted on me, I am deprived of the credit and benefit of Command, even after a full and honorable acquittal; and having been obliged to sell off my effects to defray my expences from Pallamcottah, and enable me to support my family for near three months at the Presidency, I am now obliged to go to sea in search of health, without a prospect of being able to better my situation, after a service in this country of seventeen years, during which I have sacrificed health and fortune to a strict discharge of my duty.

Your Honorable Court will pardon me, I trust, if (influenced by strong feelings of the hardship of my case), I have, in any expression of this Address, unconsciously appeared to deviate from that profound respect, which it is at all times equally my inclination and my duty, to manifest to the authority of the Government under which I serve.

I seek merely the justification of my own conduct, by the repeal of a censure which I do not feel conscious of having deserved, and which, if unrepealed, must prove a considerable bar to all my future prospects in

the service. And I humbly beg leave to inform your Honorable Court, that it is the first and only censure ever passed upon me since I entered your service, in which I have held several situations of trust.

I have the Honor to be,

Honorable Sirs,

With the greatest respect,

Your most obedient and

devoted humble Servant,

*Fort St. George,
3rd April, 1807.*

(Signed) J. WELSH,

Maj. 1st Bat. 3rd Reg. Madras N. I.

A True Copy,

(Signed) J. WELSH.

Copy of Extract from the Minutes of the Right Honorable the Governor in Council, in the Military Department, dated 4th April, 1807.

“ Resolved, That the Memorial of Major Welsh
“ be transmitted to the Honorable the Court of Di-
“ rectors by the first General Dispatch.”

A True Copy of Extract,

(Signed) G. STRACHEY,
Secretary to Government.

(Signed) THOS. REYNELL,
Military Secretary.

(Signed) J. WELSH.

Copy of Two Manuscript Books given in to the India House.

COPY OF THE PROCEEDINGS

OF A

GENERAL COURT MARTIAL

HELD AT FORT ST. GEORGE, IN THE EAST INDIES,

FOR THE

TRIAL OF MAJOR JAMES WELSH,

Of the 1st Battalion 3rd Regiment Madras Native Infantry,

FOR DISARMING THAT CORPS ON THE 19TH NOVEMBER, 1806,

WHILE UNDER HIS COMMAND IN THE FORT OF PALLAMCOTTAH ;

Together with all the various Official Papers connected with the subject,

BOTH BEFORE AND SUBSEQUENT TO THE TRIAL :

WITH AN APPENDIX

In a separate Volume,

**TO FACILITATE THE NECESSARY REFERENCES, AND ILLUSTRATE
THE WORK*.**

* In the one sent in to the Court of Directors, I added a Map of the Tinnevely District, as a Frontispiece, and a Plan of the Interior of the Fort of Pallamcottah, to illustrate the Butler's Evidence in the Appendix ; and also a Sketch of the new pattern Turban and Hindoostanny Flag of Revolt.

PREFACE.

THE measures which form the subject of the following pages, were adopted by me at Pallamcottah on the 19th November, with the advice and concurrence of the two principal Civil Officers of the District.

On the 21st, Lieutenant-Colonel Dyce, the Commanding Officer of the Fort and District, arrived, and publicly and privately applauded my conduct, to which he declared that he and every body there owed their lives.

Towards the end of the month he received positive orders to send the Corps away from Pallamcottah to Trichinopoly. He was then living with me at my house in the Fort, and communicated these orders to me, promising at the same time to write and recommend that the Corps should be allowed to stop at Madura, to give me the Command of that Station.

We left Pallamcottah on the morning of the 9th December, and had made two marches, when I received instructions to halt; with private intelligence from Colonel Dyce, that Government had unfortunately disapproved of my conduct, and that I was to be relieved in Command of the Corps. Captain Wilson was then one march in our rear, in charge of 250 moormen, without arms (directed by Lieutenant-Colonel Dyce to

follow us in that manner); the rest of the moormen, and all the Native Officers (except five, and the Havildar Major), having received their arms, and joined the Corps, prior to its marching away from the Fort.

In this situation I was obliged to proceed by myself to Trichinopoly, and had no further communication with the Corps; and having never dreamt that my conduct could be otherwise than approved of, I had, so far from encouraging or seeking evidence in my own favour, discouraged every mention of this subject, and endeavoured to make all ranks believe that it should be buried in oblivion, in order to restore that mutual confidence and unanimity which alone could render the Corps respectable, and prevent a recurrence of those disgraceful practices, which would have been terminated by the murder of their Officers, and the ruin of the Native Service for ever. I was thus (from motives of delicacy to the very men who had been seeking my life) deprived of the means of more fully establishing (by Native evidence) the guilt of the Corps in general, and moormen in particular; although I am confident, that on an attentive perusal of the following sheets, my Honorable Employers, and the Public at large, will not hesitate to acknowledge that a dangerous Mutiny did exist in the 1st Battalion 3rd Regiment N. I., and that in quelling it, I not only discharged my duty with fidelity, but also prevented consequences, the extent of which may be easier conceived than delineated.

What then must be the sentiment, when I further affirm (and challenge inquiry), that the Right Honorable Personage who has endeavoured to ruin both my reputation and fortune (and has actually succeeded in the latter), was in possession of further Documents in my favor, furnished him officially by the Judge of the Zillah of Combeconum in Tanjore (Mr. Cochrane), several days before he deliberately issued the second Government Order, dated 20th March, 1807 (having recalled the first edition, by desire of the Commander-in-Chief). These Documents contained a full account of a plot, almost general, in which several Native Chiefs were concerned, and particularly specified the murder of the Officers at Pallamcottah and Travancore, which I had prevented, by the prompt and decisive steps which are hereafter detailed.

J. WELSH.

COPIES OF LETTERS,

PRECEDING THE TRIAL.

To Major Welsh, Commanding 1st Battalion 3rd Regiment Native Infantry, Camp.

SIR,

I HAVE it in command from His Excellency the Commander-in Chief, to direct that you may deliver over the Command of the 1st Battalion 3rd Regiment to the next Senior Officer to yourself, on receipt of this Letter.

(Signed)

ALEX. DYCE,

Pallamcottah,

Lieut Col. Commanding Tinnevely District.

11th December, 1806.

To Major Welsh.

SIR,

HAVING been ordered to form a Committee for the purpose of investigating the criminality which may appear against the Native Commissioned Officers of the 1st Battalion 3rd Regiment, I think it right to apprise you of the same, in case you are of opinion that your personal attendance may be necessary, that you may accordingly return to Pallamcottah; or if you do not consider your attendance needful, I have to acquaint you, that it is His Excellency's desire that

you shall proceed to Trichinopoly, where you will wait further orders.

(Signed) ALEX. DYCE,
Lieut.-Col. Commanding, &c. &c.
Pallamcottah,
11th December, 1806.

To Lieutenant-Colonel Dyce, Pallamcottah.

SIR,

I HAD the honor to receive your Letters late last night, conveying the orders of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief to deliver over the Command of the Corps to the next Senior Officer, &c.

As I think it essential to my own character, to proceed immediately to Trichinopoly, and as I am still desirous, for the public good, that every assistance should be given towards the conviction of the ring-leaders of mutiny (now in confinement at Pallamcottah), I have to request that Captain Pepper be permitted to return there, to attend the Court of Inquiry, whom I will furnish with some essential Documents, independent of his own knowledge of the whole transaction. Enclosed is a Copy of my Letter to the Adjutant-General, sent off at one o'clock this morning by the Tappall to Madura. As I expect Captain Wilson in Camp in course of the day, I am prepared to leave this for Trichinopoly, *via* Madura, this evening.

(Signed) J. WELSH.

Camp at Kytaur,
December 12, 1806.

To the Adjutant-General of the Army, Fort St. George.

SIR,

HAVING received a Letter this morning from Lieutenant-Colonel Dyce, conveying the orders of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief to deliver over the Command of this Corps to the next Senior Officer, and to proceed either to Pallamcottah, to attend the Trial of certain Native Officers, or to Trichinopoly, to await further orders; I am induced to waive the advantage of personal prosecution of these apparent offenders (whose conviction, I have reason to believe, could do me little service), in order to evince my readiness to vindicate my own conduct, by proceeding to Trichinopoly, where I humbly request His Excellency (in delicacy to my character, which is far dearer to me than life), will allow me a public Trial by General Court Martial.

J. WELSH.

*Camp at Kytaur,
December 11, 1806.*

P. S.—Captain Wilson is the next Senior Officer, who will join the Corps to-morrow.

Note.—I think it necessary here to remark on the Trial about to take place (on men confined by me), that Colonel Dyce, after disgracing them all, by putting irons on their legs, and keeping them so for some days, all at once suspecting there were not sufficient proofs of a mutiny, ordered all their irons to be taken off. After this, all were ordered to be released, excepting such as I pointed out to have been positively implicated by evidence. (These were five in number, and men who had the greatest influence

(COPY).

To Major Welsh, 1st Battalion 3rd Regiment N. I.

SIR,

I AM directed by the Commander-in-Chief to place you in arrest, and to enclose you a Copy of the Charges on which it is His Excellency's intention to bring you to Trial before a General Court Martial to be assembled for the purpose, at or near Fort St. George, as soon as you arrive at the Presidency, and the necessary Witnesses can be collected.

You will accordingly consider yourself in arrest from the date of your receipt of this Letter, and you will furnish to Colonel Campbell, commanding the Southern Division, and to Lieutenant-Colonel Charlmers, commanding in Travancore (if necessary), a list of such Evidences now under their respective commands, as you may desire to call on your Defence, that they may be ordered to attend, for which these Officers have received instructions from Head-Quarters.

in the Corps). After the Corps had marched away, and of course all the Evidences were dispersed, five Officers, four of which were totally unacquainted with the Corps, or circumstances of the case, and all nearly ignorant of the country languages, were ordered to investigate into the guilt of these men. I could not therefore expect any benefit from returning to Pallamcottah; and this was confirmed by private accounts, that Government had, in the first instance, ordered the whole of the culprits to be released prior to any investigation. My only course therefore was to demand a public Trial, and to proceed to Trichinopoly to expedite it, as I had reason to apprehend that this justice was not intended me.

(Signed) J. WELSH.

You will bring with you the original Letter addressed to you by Brigade-Major M'Dowall, under date the 22nd November, 1806, from Quilon, acknowledging, by desire of Lieutenant-Colonel Grant, the receipt of your Letter to that Officer, of the 20th of the same month; that Letter being required on Evidence before the Court.

It is desirable that you, and the several Witnesses you may desire to call on your Defence, should arrive at Madras on or before the 15th of January next, if possible.

(Signed) P. A. AGNEW;
Adj.-Gen. of the Army.

Fort St. George,
15th December, 1814.

Received the 21st at Trichinopoly,
J. WELSH.

(COPY).

To the Adjutant-General, Fort St. George.

SIR,

I HAD the honor to receive yesterday (from the hands of Colonel Campbell) your Letter of the 15th December, with a Copy of Charges preferred against me, by order of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief.

I have only to say, that I bow with submission to the decrees of my superiors, and am grateful for this public opportunity of vindicating my conduct.

I yesterday furnished Colonel Campbell with a list

of my Evidences, whom I have reduced as much as possible, in consideration of the public service (for every Officer in the Corps has evinced a desire to come forward upon this occasion).

Enclosed are Copies of two Official Letters sent to Lieutenant-Colonel Dyce at Pallamcottah, and should the Officer therein mentioned come forward and demand an investigation, my Evidences are Captain Birch and Lieutenant Hargrave, 1st Battalion 4th Regiment, at Pallamcottah; Lieutenants Ferrier, Rigaud, and Talbot, of the 22nd Regiment, at Madura. I am induced to mention this to save time, in case any steps should be taken while I am on the road to Madras.

Trichinopoly,
December 22, 1806.

(Signed) J. WELSH,
Major, 3rd Regiment.

P. S.—I have been informed by intimate friends, that Major Scot, sitting in a mixed company, composed of Officers of three Corps (all of whom he kept at a *proper military distance*), made use of expressions to the following purport: “I hope to get a step by “seeing that fellow Grant hanged or shot; and as for “Major Welsh, I hope to see him dismissed the “service.” Several strangers to both, attempting to defend my character, and daring to differ in opinion with this *Official Detractor*, were publicly insulted by him, and left his table; and he was the only person present who had seen my Official Reports at Trichinopoly.

(Signed) J. WELSH.

(COPY).

To Lieutenant-Colonel Dyce, President of a Court of Inquiry.

SIR,

As the opinion which may be passed by the Court of Inquiry now sitting at Pallamcottah on the ringleaders of intended mutiny, who were confined by me, must materially affect my character as an Officer, I feel it a duty I owe to myself, to notify officially to you, as President, that I have ascertained beyond a doubt, that Major Scot, of the 4th Regiment, who is one of the Members, in a manner as public and deliberate as it appears to me to have been ungenerous, expressed sentiments on my conduct on that occasion, which induce a conclusion, that he had in his own mind prejudged the matter into which he is now called to investigate; and that Captain Newall, another Member (although in a less open manner), delivered an opinion nearly similar*.

I trust, Sir, my motives for stating these circumstances may not be misinterpreted: it is by no means my wish to impede the progress of that inquiry, the result of which I cannot for a moment dread; but it will be obvious to you, that I may hereafter have occasion to call the public attention to the objections

* Shortly after my return to India, I had opportunities of calling upon both gentlemen for explanations, and was then fully satisfied on that head.

(which I have here recorded) to two of those who are nominated in some degree judges of my conduct.

(Signed) J. WELSH,
Major, 3rd Regiment.

Madura,
December 17, 1806.

[Lieutenant-Colonel Dyce's Reply merely stated, that the Proceedings of the Court were nearly closed, and that he could not therefore take notice of my Letter, but would (if I still desired it) forward the Letter after the Proceedings.—Dated 19th December. J. WELSH.]

*To Lieutenant-Colonel Dyce, Commanding the Tinne-
velly District, Pallamcottah.*

SIR,

As I cannot now foresee the event of the decision of the Court of Inquiry at Pallamcottah, I am still desirous that my Official Letter to you, of the 17th December, should be recorded; and if it did not accompany the Proceedings, I should wish it to follow them.

Although it is not at present my intention to make any further use of the knowledge I have had the good fortune to obtain, yet I am determined to be ready to defend my character in every direction.

I could wish, therefore, that Copies of my Letter were furnished Major Scot and Captain Newall; and have only to add, that if they had not been nominated to the Court of Inquiry, I never should have troubled

the public with any discussion that may now result from the discovery.

(Signed) J. WELSH.

Trichinopoly,
December 22, 1806.

(COPY).

To the Adjutant-General of the Army.

SIR,

As it must be supposed that I am much interested in the result of the Inquiry at Pallamcoṭṭah, on the ringleaders of intended mutiny, I humbly request that His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief will be pleased to order a Copy of the whole Proceedings to be furnished me on my arrival at Madras (about the 7th or 8th January), to enable me to ascertain how far it may be necessary, in my own defence, to refute what may have been advanced by the prisoners.

(Signed J. WELSH,
Major, 1st Battalion 3rd Regiment.

Trichinopoly,
December 23, 1806.

(COPY).

To Major Welsh, 1st Battalion 3rd Regiment.

SIR,

AT your request I have this day forwarded your Letter to me of the 17th instant, to the Assistant

Adjutant-General, but do not feel it my duty to furnish any copies of it to any person.

(Signed) A. DYCE,
Lieut.-Col. Commanding.

Pallamcottah,
27th December, 1806.

(COPY).

To the Adjutant-General of the Army.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to enclose my passport from Trichinopoly, and also to send my regimental sword. As some exercise may be necessary to my health, I wish to ascertain whether I can take it, consistent with the nature of my arrest (visiting and amusements are out of the question in my situation).

(Signed) J. WELSH.

Ryapett,
January 9, 1807.

(COPY).

To Major Welsh, 1st Battalion 3rd Regiment.

SIR,

I HAVE received your passport and sword. There is no objection to your taking such exercise as you may find necessary; and you will consider your arrest to be such as allows you every liberty consistent with that situation.

(Signed) P. A. AGNEW,
Adj.-Gen. of the Army.

Fort St. George,
Jan. 9, 1807.

To Major Welsh.

Fort St. George, Jan. 17, 1807.

SIR,

IN the Resolutions of Council, a copy of which I have the honor to enclose, you will observe that the Summons for the attendance of such Evidence as you may require at your Court Martial, should be made through the channel of the Judge-Advocate-General. It is also stated, that considerable inconvenience would be occasioned to the public service by the absence of both the Judge and Collector of Tinnevelly (but particularly the latter Officer), from their duties in that Province; and that Government is desirous of ascertaining whether the Evidence of the Collector might not be taken through the means of a Commission, or in such mode as may be judged satisfactory, without requiring the personal attendance of the Collector at the Presidency. The Commander-in-Chief would of course be pleased, if, without injuring your cause, the wishes of Government could be complied with; but he will not urge the point, but leave it to your own determination, whether the mode of obtaining the Evidence of the Collector of Tinnevelly suggested by the Council, may be equally satisfactory to you as his personal attendance.

I have the Honor to be, Sir,

(Signed) THOS. REYNELL,
Military Secretary.

(COPY).

*To Lieutenant-Colonel Reynell, Military Secretary to
the Commander-in-Chief.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your Letter of this date, and in reply, beg you will do me the honor to inform His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, that although I have every wish to avoid injuring the public service, I cannot, in justice to myself, dispense with the personal Evidence of Mr. Hepburn. I have been degraded in the eyes of the Corps I commanded; I have been placed in arrest, and am to be brought to Trial for a faithful discharge of my duty. Under such circumstances, I trust that I shall not be accused of obstinacy, in affirming, that as the Charges are various, serious, and extensive, it is impossible for me to foresee the various questions which it may be necessary to put to Mr. Hepburn in my defence; and I solemnly declare, I look upon him as my principal Evidence, he having acted in the united capacity of Civilian and Soldier, and being one of my principal advisers in every measure I adopted.

I beg leave to apologize for the manner in which this Letter is written, being unwell, and subject to fever; at the same time I do not wish to delay my reply.

(Signed) J. WELSH.

*Madras,
17th January, 1807.*

P. S.—I was aware of the channel of summoning Military Evidences, but my instructions at the time of my arrest, were, to send the names of the Evidences to Colonel Campbell at Trichinopoly. I shall lose no time in addressing the Judge-Advocate-General on the subject.

(COPY).

To the Adjutant-General of the Army, Fort St. George.

SIR,

I TAKE the liberty to request that (if consistent with existing circumstances) I may be furnished with a Copy of the Proceedings of the Court of Inquiry at Pallamcottah, held to investigate into the conduct of certain Native Officers confined by me on the 19th November (and which I formerly applied for, in my Letter to you of the 23rd December), as I may have occasion to refer to parts of those Proceedings in my Defence.

(Signed)

J. WELSH,
Major, 3rd Regiment.

Madras,
January 22, 1807.

To Major Welsh, &c.

SIR,

I HAVE submitted to the Commander-in-Chief, your request to be furnished with a Copy of the Proceedings of the Court of Inquiry held at Pal-

lamcottah, to investigate the conduct of the Native Officers confined by you on the 19th November last; and am directed to inform you in reply, that you cannot demand them of right, and that it will be necessary that you should point out what part of the Proceedings, or Evidence given in the course of it, has become essential to your Defence, to entitle you to a copy of such part as you may require.

*Fort St. George,
28th January, 1807.*

(Signed)

P. A. AGNEW,
Adj. Gen. of the Army.

(COPY).

To the Adjutant-General of the Army, Fort St. George.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your Letter of the 28th instant, and can only say in reply, that if I am denied the favor of a perusal of the Proceedings of the Court of Inquiry, it must be out of my power either to defend myself against any allegations of the Prisoners, or to point out what part of the Proceedings are essential to my Defence, being kept entirely in the dark with regard to the whole examination—an examination, in every part of which I must be most materially interested. My present state of health prevents my being able to assign many reasons I could otherwise allege, for that anxiety which my applications on this subject have evinced.

A nervous fever hanging over me at this instant, obliges me to write in haste; and all I can recollect at present is, that I have understood from private intelligence, among other particulars, that several gross falsehoods were asserted by the Native Officers at their Trial, which I should conceive it a duty I owe to the public service, as well as to my own character, to refute by positive Evidence at my Trial. I beg to apologize for the trouble I am unfortunately the cause of to my superiors.

*Madras,
29th January, 1807.*

(Signed) J. WELSH,
Major.

To Major Welsh, &c. &c.

SIR,

IN consideration of the circumstances stated in your Letter of the 29th ultimo, the Commander-in-Chief will allow you the perusal of the Proceedings of the Court of Inquiry assembled at Pallamcottah, to investigate the proofs of guilt against the Native Officers of the 1st Battalion 3rd Regiment Native Infantry.

*Fort St. George,
4th February, 1807.*

(Signed) P. A. AGNEW,
Adj.-Gen. of the Army.

(COPY).

PROCEEDINGS
OF A**GENERAL COURT MARTIAL****HELD AT FORT ST. GEORGE,***Wednesday, February 25, 1807, at Ten o'Clock this Day.*

THE Court being assembled in pursuance of their Adjournment, and the Prisoner, Major Welsh, being in Court, the Names of the President and Members who assembled yesterday (with the exception of Lieutenant-Colonel Capper, reported sick) are read over to him; and he is asked whether he has any objections to assign against any of them—to which he replies, That he has none.

PRESENT:
MAJOR-GENERAL D. CAMPBELL, PRESIDENT.**MEMBERS:**

MAJOR-GENERAL FULLER,
MAJOR-GENERAL PATER,
COLONEL GILLESPIE,
COLONEL LOCKHART,
COLONEL BELL,
COLONEL E. TRAPAUD,
LIEUT.-COL. R. LANG,

LIEUT.-COL. DODSWORTH,
LIEUT.-COL. J. DIGHTON,
LIEUT.-COL. J. CAMPBELL,
LIEUT.-COL. A. M'CALLY,
MAJOR SIR D. OGILBY,
MAJOR G. D. BRUCE.

C. MARSH, JUDGE-ADVOCATE-GENERAL.

The following Charges were then read over to the Prisoner by the Judge-Advocate-General.

CHARGES.

Major James Welsh, of the 3rd Regiment of Native Infantry, placed in arrest by order of the Commander-in-Chief, for unofficer-like and precipitate conduct, disreputable to the military character, inconsistent with his duty as an Officer in Command, and highly injurious to the public interests, in the following instances :

1st, In having, on the 19th November, 1806, when commanding, as the Senior Officer present, in the Fort of Pallamcottah, caused twenty Native Officers of the 1st Battalion 3rd Regiment of Native Infantry to be confined, and a large proportion of that Battalion to be disarmed, without any justifiable cause, adequate necessity, or deliberate investigation of the allegations on which a measure of such extremity was adopted.

2nd, In having, on the 19th November, 1806, expelled from the Fort of Pallamcottah the Mahomedan Troops of the Garrison, whom he had previously caused to be disarmed, on vague suspicions of their general disaffection ; thus tending to produce disunion and mutual distrust in the various classes of men composing the British Army in India.

3rd, In having addressed various Letters, written in terms not warranted by the occasion, but tending to excite alarm, to Ceylon, to Trichinopoly, and to

Travancore; and particularly in having addressed a Letter, dated 20th November, 1806, to the Officer commanding the Troops at Quilon, asserting, as consistent with his positive knowledge, the existence of designs the most alarming, and urging distrust of the Mahomedan Troops; thus creating false alarms in the quarters of the Travancore Subsidiary Force, and stimulating measures of the most injurious tendency to the general interests of the State.

By order of the Commander-in-Chief,

(Signed) P. A. AGNEW,
Adj.-Gen. of the Army.

Fort St. George,
13th December, 1806.

Question by Judge-Advocate-General—How say you, Major Welsh, are you Guilty, or Not Guilty, of the above Charges?

The Prisoner answers—"Not Guilty."

The Judge-Advocate, in support of the First and Second Charges, produces a Letter written by the Prisoner to the Officer commanding the Troops at Quilon; and the Prisoner admits it to be of his hand-writing.

"Officer commanding Troops at Quilon.

"SIR,

"WE have discovered and defeated a
"plot of moormen to murder us all, and you may rely
"on the same fate intended you. Five of us marched
"boldly to the Barracks, secured the arms, seized
"twenty ringleaders, Native Officers, and disarmed

“ 450 moormen in five minutes. This knowledge may
 “ be useful to you. We employ all other casts. We
 “ are now altogether about 20 certain, and 400 or 500
 “ uncertain fellows in arms, ready to sell every life
 “ most dearly. Nothing but decision, and the blessed
 “ assistance of Heaven, can save people in our si-
 “ tuation. I have written to Trichinopoly and Co-
 “ lumbo; would advise your looking for immediate
 “ succour where the nearest Europeans are stationed;
 “ do not rely on appearances, they are certainly false.
 “ I know that agents have gone your way, and that
 “ the followers of the False Prophet are unanimously
 “ corrupted. I wish you would also state our pre-
 “ carious situation to Ceylon. Colonel Dyce was
 “ absent at the hills, forty miles off; if he is alive, he
 “ will join us soon.

(Signed) “ J. WELSH,

“ Major, Commanding Pallamcottah.

“ November 20, 1806.”

LIEUT.-COL. DYCE, *sworn*.

The Charges are read to the Witness.

Question by Judge-Advocate—State to the Court what you know concerning the first Charge, now read to you, against the Prisoner.

Answer—On the 19th day of November I received a private Note from Major Welsh, informing me, “ that
 “ he had discovered a conspiracy, a plot equal to any

“ of the former (alluding, as I supposed, to the transactions at Vellore), “ and that if he survived till the “ next day, all would be well; if not, that he would “ *die* in the execution of his *duty*.” In the evening of the next day, the 20th, I received another private Note from Major Welsh, stating, in general terms, that he had succeeded in disarming the Corps, had secured the Native Commissioned Officers, and turned the Musulman Non-Commissioned and Privates out of the Fort of Pallamcottah. He acquainted me also, that he had sent a small guard of men, that he thought he could rely upon, to meet me half way, and to escort me into Pallamcottah. I was then at Courtallum, which is forty miles distant. In consequence of this report, I proceeded, in one half-hour after I had received it, to Pallamcottah, where I arrived the next morning. On my arrival there, I found the Garrison in the situation mentioned by Major Welsh.

Q. by Judge-Advocate—State the situation in which you found the Garrison, to the best of your recollection.

A.—On my arrival in the vicinity of the Fort, I found a large proportion of the Mussulmen, about 150 or 200, who had been turned out, several of whom, as I passed along, told me they had been treated with cruelty, in having been turned out without a crime. On approaching the gateway, I was met by Major Welsh, with a small party of armed Sepoys, which he had brought out to meet me. As we entered the Fort

together, he mentioned, in general terms, that the existence of a conspiracy was undoubted, and that they had been very fortunate in detecting it, and preventing its consequences. He informed me, that he imagined there were about 500 Hindoo Sepoys in the Fort, but that he had confided arms to only about 150 of them. At this time a considerable degree of agitation was apparent among all ranks: all the Gentlemen of the Civil Service in the neighbourhood of Pallamcottah had taken refuge in the Fort, and were there employed in military duties. Such was the state in which I found the Troops composing the Garrison at Pallamcottah. Under an implicit belief of the existence of a conspiracy, it appeared to me to be necessary, in the first instance, to put to the test the loyalty of the Hindoos; and I directed Major Welsh to assemble the whole on parade, where, after a general address to the Troops, I proposed to administer an Oath of Fidelity to the British Government, and to their European Officers, to every Native who was willing to take it. The whole without hesitation took the Oath. I should have mentioned before, that, as I found there only remained one Native Commissioned Officer in Garrison who had not been confined, it appeared to me to be necessary to organize the Troops, promoting on the spot a proportion of Subadars and Jemadars; and, on the recommendation and selection of Major Welsh, five Subadars and five Jemadars, with a proportion of Non-Commissioned Officers, were promoted. After

the Oath of Fidelity had been administered, I directed arms to be given to every man on the parade; and from the appearance and conduct of the men on that occasion, I was disposed to think that they were loyal. Matters remained tranquil during the whole of that day, the 21st of November; but in the evening, about six or seven o'clock, the whole of the Native Officers were put in irons by my order, in consequence of a report from Major Welsh. The next morning, the 22nd, I directed the Mussulmen who had been turned out, to be informed that I approved of their *orderly** conduct subsequent to their having been turned out of the Fort; desiring them to continue behaving themselves in the same manner, and that after an inquiry, justice should be done to all parties.

Q. by Judge-Advocate—Had you any other information concerning the existence of a conspiracy in the Fort of Pallamcottah, than that which you have related your having received from Major Welsh?

A.—Not any.

Q. by Judge-Advocate—Do you know the number of the Native Officers whom Major Welsh had ordered into confinement on that occasion?

A.—I do not recollect the exact number, but I believe all were put in confinement, with the exception

* I had taken the most effectual means to secure their orderly conduct, having all their families in the Fort, a part of whom only went out occasionally, to carry meals to the tents I had pitched outside for their reception.—J. WELSH.

of one; there was only one at large when I came into the Garrison.

Q. by Judge-Advocate—Do you know of what Battalion the Native Officers were, that were so confined?

A.—Of the 1st Battalion 3rd Regiment.

Q. by Judge-Advocate—Were they disarmed before they were confined?

A.—I cannot say; I presume they were.

Q. by the Court—What was the report made to you by Major Welsh, which induced you to put them in irons?

A.—When sitting in the Commanding Officer's house, then occupied by Major Welsh, about seven o'clock in the evening, an Officer, I believe Captain Pepper, suddenly entered in haste, and said something privately to Major Welsh; on which he (Major Welsh) immediately rose and followed the Officer, who had retired. After waiting some time, and receiving no report, I proceeded myself toward the general store-room of the Garrison, where the Native Officers were confined, near which I met Major Welsh, who reported to me, that the Native Officers had been very turbulent, and I think he said, has shewn some design of forcing the door of the room where they were confined; adding, that he was of opinion that it would be necessary to put them in irons; which I directed to be done.

Q. by Judge-Advocate—Had you any other reason to believe that the design of forcing the door was entertained, than the information of Major Welsh?

A.—Yes; Captain Pepper, I think it was, stated to me, after Major Welsh's report, that the Native Officers had been very turbulent, and had nearly forced open the door, and forced their way out, whilst he was holding some communication with them.

Q. by the Court—Did you not endeavour, exclusively of Major Welsh's own report to you, to investigate whether there was any cause of alarm sufficient to authorize the Major's strong measure of disarming the Mussulmen; and whether, to the best of your belief, you do not conceive he had reason for so doing?

A.—On my arrival at the Garrison on the 21st, the situation of the Troops seemed so critical, and a variety of attentions were so urgently necessary in my belief at that time, to ensure our safety, that there was neither leisure nor means for further inquiry. I certainly believed in the existence of a conspiracy on Major Welsh's assurance.

Q. by the Court—Did Major Welsh state to you the grounds on which he believed the existence of a conspiracy?

A.—Yes; I think he told me he had positive proofs, from some of his own servants.

Q.—Do you know whether their arms were restored to the Mussulmen, after they were turned out of the Fort?

A.—Yes; after the arrival of a detachment of European Troops from Ceylon at Pallamcottah, I gave directions for 100 or 150 of the Mussulmen to be