

Q.—Was any thing said by the Native Officers when the new-pattern turban arrived at Pallamcottah?

A.—I heard nothing.

Q.—Do you know when the Facqueer *Emaum Ally** left Pallamcottah?

A.—He went away before the disturbance at Pallamcottah.

Q.—Where did he go to?

A.—He said he was going to Travancore.

Q.—Did he say himself he was going to Travancore?

A.—The people who saw him on the road, told me that he said he was going to Travancore.

Q.—Were there many Facqueers in the Fort?

A.—I don't know.

Q.—Whose house did the Facqueers go to in the Fort?

A.—To Sheik Hyder's.

Q.—What was the general conduct of Subadar Sheik Hyder to the Corps?

A.—He called himself Commandant, and directed the rest of the Battalion to carry reports to him, and not to the Gentlemen of the Battalion.

Q.—Did he use people ill?

A.—He settled disputes amongst the Sepoys and boys, and always had a number employed about his house, in carrying bricks.

Q.—Did he make trouble with the Corps?

* This was a Havildar, who was reduced for insolence to Captain Pepper on duty in July, when I was absent from the Corps for a few days; and turned Facqueer.

A.—With those who were employed about his house.

Q.—Had he great influence with the Corps?

A.—He had, and people were afraid to disobey him.

Q.—Did I authorize him to assume so much command over the men?

A.—I do not know whether Major Welsh gave him such authority.

Q.—When was it that he began to assume such authority?

A.—About the time of Major Shepherd—about four or five years.

Q.—Did he order himself to be called Commandant in Major Shepherd's time?

A.—Not then.

Q.—Did he not order himself to be called Commandant of the Fort of Pallamcottah?

A.—I do not know whether he directed the Sepoys to call him—he was always called Commandant, but not of the Fort of Pallamcottah.

Q.—Did not Sheik Hyder call himself Commanding Officer of the Fort of Pallamcottah?

A.—I never heard him.

Q.—What was the exclamation in Moors, when the green flag was raised?

A.—Deen! Deen! Deen!

Q.—What else did they say?

A.—Deen Jágá. Kauffer Bhagah?

Q.—When the flag was carried round in procession, was it not escorted by a party of the main guard?

A.—One Havildar, one Naigue, and twelve Sepoys, escorted it from the Barracks.

Q.—Who ordered the guard?

A.—The Havildar Major came and ordered the Havildar, the Naigue, and the Sepoys, from the Barracks; but who ordered the Havildar Major I do not know.

Q.—Were any puppet-shows exhibited at the Barracks, before the disarming the Corps?

A.—Yes, there was at the Barracks.

Q.—What was represented there?

A.—There was a pandall furnished, and a curtain drew up, and shewed images of Europeans and Sepoys to the people who were present*.

Q.—Was there an image there of Major Welsh?

A.—Yes, of Major Welsh, and of other European Gentlemen.

Q.—Who paid the expences of this exhibition?

A.—The Sepoys were taxed to pay them.

Q.—Who ordered the tax to be made?

A.—Sheik Hyder.

Q.—How many brothers of Subadar Sheik Adum were in the Battalion?

A.—Two of them were in the Battalion.

Q.—How many brothers of Noor Mahomed were in the Battalion?

A.—One; he was a Havildar.

* Vide Colonel Dyce's Letter, Appendix, No. IX.

Q. by the Judge-Advocate—Were those persons the brothers of that Sheik Adom who was blown away for mutiny at Vellore?

A.—I heard so.

Q.—Where was Noor Mahomed?

A.—I have heard that he was at Vellore.

Q. by the Prisoner—How did I behave to the Corps?

A.—Very well.

Q. by the Court—Did you observe a green flag at the Mosque before?

A.—Yes, some days before.

Q.—Did you ever observe such a flag before?

A.—Sheik Hyder hoisted a flag of the same kind before he marched into the *Mahrattah* country with General Wellesley; and this was put up in consequence of the old one being worn out. I cannot tell whether it was a proper flag, for I *do not know the customs of the Moormen* *.

Q. by the Court—When the flag was hoisted the first time, did the Moormen make the same noise of Deen! Deen! Jaga! Caufre Bagga?

A.—I was not there.

* It will be easily observed how this man prevaricated from beginning to end. I know he was perfectly acquainted with all the tricks of the conspirators, and knew their customs fully; but they all attacked him, when they found I had summoned him as an Evidence, and actually frightened him from disclosing half the truth, as he still apprehends they will succeed in the end. I had promoted him at once from Havildar for good conduct on the 19th November, and thought him a brave and steady soldier till now, 1807.

He became an habitual drunkard, and was pensioned.

Q. by the Court—Was it usual for any flag to be carried about in a palankin ?

A.—I never saw it before in a palankin, but only on a brass plate on men's heads.

Q.—Were you present when the green flag was hoisted the last time ?

A.—I was.

Q. by the Court—Was there any conversation among the Moormen when the flag was last hoisted ?

A.—There was, but I do not recollect what.

Q. by the Court—When the representation was made of the puppet-show, what were the images represented as doing ?

A.—Men were represented on horseback and on foot; persons were engaged on both sides; the Sepoys and the Europeans were marching backwards and forwards: they appeared to be exercising.

Q. by the Court—Was the guard which escorted the flag armed ?

A.—Yes.

The Court adjourned till To-morrow, March the 3rd, at Ten o'Clock.

Tuesday, March 3, 1807.

The Court assembled this day, pursuant to their Adjournment. Members present the same as yesterday.

Captain Clayson, of the 1st Battalion 20th Regiment Native Infantry, is sworn, to interpret in Hindostanee.

AITWAR SYNG, *1st Battalion 3rd Regiment Native Infantry, is sworn.*

Q. by the Prisoner—Relate what passed at Pallamcottah after the news of the Vellore mutiny arrived.

A.—Ten* days before the Vellore mutiny, a green flag was hoisted on the Mosque at Pallamcottah. Major Welsh was then absent; of course it was hoisted without Major Welsh's permission or knowledge; it was reported afterwards to the Corps, that a mutiny had happened at Vellore, on account of a new turban having been ordered to be worn. After the news came to Pallamcottah, the green flag was hoisted a second time, and the Mussulmen called out Deen! Deen! Jaga! Kauffre Bagga. It was reported that the mutiny had happened on account of the new turban, and that Sheik Adam had distinguished himself in killing the Europeans. *Sheik Hyder* then told the men of the Battalion, "that the Battalion which had mutinied " was a new Battalion, and had done its duty pro-

* That is, about ten days before they heard of it, which was the very time it took place.

“perly; and that their Battalion was an old one, and
 “if they wore the turban (should they be ordered to
 “wear them), they would be unworthy of being Mus-
 “sulmen; and if the European Officers insisted on
 “their wearing them, they were only ten or fifteen,
 “and might be easily dispatched; and they might run
 “off to the Travancore Rajah; that the Vellore men
 “had not pursued their victory as they ought to have
 “done, for had they pulled up the draw-bridge, they
 “might have kept it for twelve years, with Tippoo’s
 “sons in it; that they lost the Fort because they were
 “drunk.” I overheard Sheik Hyder make use of
 these expressions. After the new turban arrived at
 Pallamcottah, Major Welsh told the men that it was
 a good turban, and had been ordered to be worn in the
 Service. The men refused to wear it, and said that
 they should thereby become “soldiers,” and lose their
 faith; and that they would rather lose their lives—
 (by soldiers, they meant that they should become
 European soldiers). Major Welsh then said, that he
 would communicate their refusal to Government*.

* A Copy of my Official Report to the Adjutant-General on this subject, is subjoined, to show how artfully Subadar Sheik Hyder conducted himself before me, when I supposed him the best Native Soldier I ever knew, and treated him as such.

(COPY).

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

SIR,

HAVING explained to this Corps the General Order (rescinding those in force) respecting the new turban, and left it to them to choose or reject the pattern proposed, they have come to a determination to avail

After having refused to wear the turban, the Sepoys assembled in large parties together, and came to a determination not to wear the turban. I afterwards went to Shevlapatoor as one of the guard, to take charge of some cloth. Before my departure, I went to make my salams to the Major Welsh, who asked me the news of the day: I told him to take care of himself, as the Battalion was in a state of mutiny: I said, "Were I not sent on command, I would stay and be cut to pieces, rather than aid in the mutiny."

Q.—Did any one else besides Sheik Hyder speak of Sheik Adam's conduct at Vellore?

A.—Nutter *Sahib**, Subadar, and *Sheik** Muctoon, Subadar, and Khoodby, Jemadar, said, that Sheik Adam had behaved properly at Vellore, and that if it had not been for him, they would by this time have been

themselves of the present indulgence, and to keep their old turban. I find on inquiry, that there are several objections to the new pattern, although not a man avowed his dislike before authorized by the present Order; and I think it now my duty to mention the handsome manner in which the Senior Subadar, Sheik Hyder, came forward, and put on one of the new-pattern turbans, requesting me to make him up the first, that he might set an example to the Corps. As I supposed the cockades had been made of leather through an oversight, I then proposed to make up those for the Corps of horn, or painted wood, to which all agreed immediately. They have now requested me to procure them the same blue cloth for which I formerly indented, to enable them to new cover their former turbans, and make them smart and uniform.

(Signed)

J. WELSH,
Captain Commanding 1st
Battalion 3rd Regiment.

Pallamcottah,
July 26, 1806.

* Sheik and Sahib are used indiscriminately.

all kauffers (infidels). I heard *Sheik* Nutter and *Sheik* Hyder say, that had the men at Vellore given them at Pallamcottah *timely** notice of what they meant to do, they might have been prepared to perform the same scenes at Pallamcottah; that the Europeans were few in every station; that the Calistry Rajah was very near Vellore, and that the men at Vellore had performed their parts well at first, but did not carry the business through as they ought to have done. After the *gurburry*†, I was sent for by Major Welsh to give evidence of what I knew.

Q. by the Court—Was it before the *gurburry* at Pallamcottah that Major Welsh proposed the new turbans to be worn?

A.—Before.

Q.—Was it before the news from Vellore had arrived?

A.—The news had arrived by means of *Facqueers*, that the mutiny at Vellore had taken place, and that *Sheik* Adam had distinguished himself. The times when the turban arrived, and the news from Vellore arrived, were nearly the same.

Q. by the Court—When did you first mention to Major Welsh that you overheard *Sheik* Hyder say, that if the European Officers insisted on their wearing the turban, that they might easily be dispatched?

A.—Not till I was sent for by Major Welsh; it was after the disarming had taken place. It was more than

* The Vellore massacre commenced several days sooner than was intended.

† Disturbance.

a month after I overheard the conversation, that I was sent for by Major Welsh.

Q. by the Court—Was the green flag you spoke of as being hoisted at the Mosque, a strange or a common flag, and had you ever seen it before?

A.—I cannot say whether it was a strange or a common flag; I never saw it before; I never saw a flag of the kind before; but I considered the flag as a flag of defiance, on account of the cry of Deen! Deen! Jaga! Kauffre Bagga.

Q.—How long had you been at Pallamcottah?

A.—Upon the whole, to the best of my knowledge, twelve years.

Q.—Was any other cause mentioned for the disturbance at Vellore, besides the new turban?

A.—I heard another reason was, that a European soldier, who was on guard, after having eaten a piece of beef, threw the bone into the platter of a Sepoy; that the Sepoy complained to a Subadar, who reported it to the European Serjeant, who called out, "*Damn you, we shall all eat out of the same dish by and by* *;" that the Sepoy afterwards complained to the Officer of the main guard, who gave him the same reply as the Serjeant; that afterwards he complained to the Colonel of the Garrison, who said the same thing

* This infamous story was current all over the country for some months. Can any man, who knows any thing of the insurmountable prejudices of all castes and sects of the Natives of India (in regard to food especially), doubt the intention or the effect it was likely to produce, on the minds of the Troops?

as the Serjeant. This was told the men by the Facqueers who came from Vellore. The Facqueers also said, that this was the cause of the Colonel's being first killed.

Q. by the Court—What was the report at Pallamcottah amongst the Sepoys, of a prophecy relative to the Mussulmen and Europeans?

A.—What I understood about it was, that the Europeans were to be destroyed by the hands of the Mussulmen, who were to be reinstated in the same power as when Tippoo had possession of Mysore.

Q. by the Court—In what language did Sheik Hyder address the Sepoys?

A.—In Moors.

The Witness informs the Court, that since he has been at Madras, he was met by Abdul Nubby, Subadar, who advised him not to tell the whole of what happened at Pallamcottah, but to cover himself with forgetfulness, and that the Europeans would soon be gone*.

ITYEN PERMAUL, *is sworn.*

Q. by the Prisoner—Relate what you informed me at Pallamcottah, about a mutiny in the Corps.

A.—On the 14th of November Mrs. Welsh directed me to give her the news respecting what was taking place at Pallamcottah, and what I heard that was said

* The Court took this up, and confined Subadar Abdul Nubby, with other mutineers, in the Fort of Madras, where he still was a prisoner at my departure.

among the Moor people. On the 18th of the same month I took off my turban and jacket, and went to the Mosque, and sat down there, when I saw a Facqueer who had come from Vellore. I sat down out of sight of the Facqueer: Sheik Hyder came and sat down near the Facqueer, and said, "You have been here these two months, and I have raised the flag these two months, and it has been generally understood that the dominion now belongs to the Moors. I have received a Letter from the Northward, from the French, the Dutch, and the Nabob: the contents of the Letter, that the French will give double pay; therefore you may kill all the Gentlemen." Sheik Hyder then sent for two other Subadars, and told them what he had told the Facqueer. I do not know the names of the Subadars. The two Subadars consented to kill all the Gentlemen. At length the *Havildar Major** came to the Mosque, and then Sheik Hyder told the Havildar Major to collect together all the Moor people, for the Hindoos would never agree with them; and said to the Havildar Major, "In ten days we must kill all the Gentlemen." The Havildar Major said, "You must wait; in ten days I will get all the people to agree, and we will kill the Gentlemen." The Havildar then told Sheik Hyder to come to his (the Havildar's) house, where they would talk over the rest. This conversation took place from ten

* Mahomed Eshaac, vide Colonel Trotter's Letter, Appendix. He is a religious bigot.

o'clock at night till two the next morning; they then went away. On the 15th November I had gone to ease myself near the Mosque; Sheik Hyder was there, talking to the same Facqueer about the Letter he had received Northward; it was in consequence of what I heard on the 15th, that I went to the Mosque on the 18th. On the 19th, in the morning, I reported what I had heard to Mrs. Welsh. Sheik Hyder also told the Facqueer on the 18th, that he had sent the three other Subadars, who were Malabars, on command, as he supposed that they would not join the Moors.

Q.—Did you observe a strange flag flying at the Mosque?

A.—Two months before November, Sheik Hyder, Subadar, raised a green triangular flag, which was flying three or four days. In the conversation on the 18th, Sheik Hyder told the Facqueer, that he had raised this flag in order to make all the Moor people consent to kill all the Gentlemen. On the 17th, when I was quarrelling with a Facqueer at the Mosque, Sheik Hyder, Subadar, happened to be there, and said to me, “Don't you be afraid because I hoisted the flag, to kill the Europeans: you are a black man.”

This Witness informs the Court that Abdul Nubby, Subadar, came to him ten or twelve days ago at *Mr. Cochrane's* gardens*, walking. The Witness asked him why he came there; he said he came to speak to a Moorman, who was Captain Bagshaw's servant. The

* I was living with Captain Bagshaw, at Mr. Cochrane's gardens.

Witness said, "There is no servant of Mr. Bagshaw's, a Moorman, here—why do you come?" He said, "I was told there is one, therefore I came. I was told by a servant of Captain Pepper's, that your master has been perusing a Letter with great joy, and has also got back his sword." The Witness said, "I know nothing about all this." The Subadar Abdul Nubby said, "Why do you stay here so many days away from your own country?" The Witness said, "I will go when my master goes." Then Abdul Nubby told him that Sheik Hyder was a bad man, and would sacrifice every thing to carry his point; on which the Witness said, "He is a very good man." The Witness gave him that answer, because he thought the Subadar came to get intelligence from him. Abdul Nubby then went away. The Subadar was not dressed in the dress of an Officer, but with clothes unusually dirty and coarse, and such as a Native Officer would not wear out of regimentals. Two or three days after, Abdul Nubby came to the Witness with another Subadar, and told him, "that rice is very scarce at Madras; why should we stay here to no purpose? it's better to go away." The Witness asked Abdul Nubby and the other Subadar why they came. They said they came to speak to Major Welsh. They were undressed as before, and in dirty clothes; afterwards they went away.

The Court adjourned till Ten o'Clock To-morrow morning, Wednesday, March 4.

Wednesday, March 4, 1807.

The Court assembled in pursuance of their Adjournment.

The Witness Iyen Permaul, corrects his statement of yesterday, relative to the persons who came to him at Mr. Cochrane's garden. Two Native Officers in Court, Nubby Cawn and *Sheik Khoodby**, are identified by him, as the persons who came to him. The first time Nubby Cawn came to him alone; the second time, he came accompanied by Sheik Khoodby.

This Witness also corrects his Evidence of yesterday†, by saying, that Sheik Hyder said in the Mosque, that he had received a Treaty signed by the French, the Dutch, and the Nabob (the *Madras* Nabob, as the Witness thinks), and the subject of the Treaty was, that the French would give double pay.

IYEN PERMAUL on his former Oath—Cross-Examined
by the JUDGE-ADVOCATE.

Q.—When you went into the Mosque‡, were you habited as a Mussulman?

A.—No, I was in common cloth.

Q.—Then you remained there in your ordinary dress, from ten till two o'clock in the morning?

A.—Yes, I was there from ten o'clock at night till two in the morning.

* This man was afterwards dismissed at Chicacole, for reverting to his old practices, November 1814.

† The Interpreter was so bad, I was forced to object to him fifty times.

‡ He never was in the Mosque.

Q.—You say that Sheik Hyder, when talking to the Facqueer, *sent* * for two other Subadars—whom did he send to call them?

A.—Their houses were close to the Mosque, and he called for them himself.

Q.—In what language did Sheik Hyder converse with the Facqueer?

A.—In the Malabar.

Q.—Do people frequently ease themselves so near the Mosque?

A.—It is a common place.

Q.—When you eased yourself, how far were you from Sheik Hyder?

A.—There was a wall betwixt us.

Q.—Did Sheik Hyder converse in a loud tone?

A.—In his common voice.

Q.—How high is the wall?

A.—It is a high wall†—the persons were not conversing in the Mosque, but in a little tiled hut.

Q.—Did you see Sheik Hyder?

A.—Yes.

Q.—If there was a wall betwixt you, how could you see him?

A.—There was a door in the wall‡, through which I saw him.

Q. by the Prisoner—Where was your house?

* This was an error of the Interpreter: I heard him plainly say *called*, but the Court would not allow me to interfere.

† With a door in it, he said (but not interpreted).

‡ Vide my Plan, in the Appendix.

A.—Near the Mosque.

Q.—What was the language in which Native Officers usually conversed with Facquers?

A.—I don't know, but at this time I speak of, they conversed in Malabars.

JAMES HEPBURN, *Collector, Tinnevely, is next sworn.*

Q. by the Prisoner—Do you know any thing of any blood at the church of Pallamcottah on the 16th November last?

A.—I recollect, on Sunday morning, the 16th November, my Assistant, Mr. Hanbury, and Mr. Douglas, the Deputy Commercial Resident, after breakfast at my house, went to church. I did not see any blood at the church—I did not go to the church.

Q.—When Captain Pepper, yourself, and I, waited on Mr. Stratton, on the 18th of November, what conversation took place between us?

A.—Major Welsh and Captain Pepper called on me on the morning of the 18th, and asked me whether I had heard of the blood at the church. I told them I had heard it from Mr. Hanbury and Mr. Douglas, but that it made no particular impression on me. Major Welsh then said he suspected there was some improper agency going on, to corrupt the minds of the Sepoys in the Fort; and he mentioned the circumstance of a ghost having been seen to walk about the Fort, which had agitated the Sepoys considerably; and that although Europeans laughed at such things, yet

amongst Natives such things produced considerable effect. He said he also suspected there were some Facqueers about the Fort, and one Facqueer in particular, who had come from Vellore, whom he had seen loitering about the Fort for some time past. Major Welsh said he did not think he had information enough to take any other steps, but those of being on his guard. Major Welsh then asked me, if I had any Peons in the country, who might be depended on in the event of an actual disturbance. I said I had only my own domestic servants, but that I would make every inquiry, to ascertain whether such agency was going on in the Fort. Major Welsh and Captain Pepper left me. I called some time afterwards on Mr. Stratton, when I found them talking with Mr. Stratton. When I came into the room, Mr. Stratton put into my hands a circular Letter from Government, in the Secret Department, to all Magistrates, which Mr. Stratton said he had received that morning from Government. The purport of the Letter was, to the best of my recollection, that in consequence of the Investigation in the Mysore, and at Nundydroog, Government had reason to suppose that there were persons travelling about the country, in the habits of Facqueers, and other religious mendicants, for the purpose of corrupting the minds of the Native Troops; that his Lordship in Council therefore directed, that he should keep strict watch on all persons of that description, not inhabitants of the district; and that any person

was to be examined and apprehended, who could not give a good account of himself; but that it was not his Lordship's intentions to interfere with the religious opinions of the country. Major Welsh then repeated to Mr. Stratton the substance of what he told me before; and added, in confirmation of his suspicions, an extraordinary speech and warning that had been made to him by a Sepoy a few days before: he described that *Sepoy* as a *Bengally**, who had been some time in the Corps, and had been ordered on detachment a few days before to Shanganacoile; that he came to the Major's house after breakfast one morning, and presented himself; that Major Welsh remarked something extraordinary in his countenance; that he told Major Welsh that he had no friends or relations there, but that he was his father; and added, in an elevated tone, that there was no such thing as honor or honesty in a black man; "and if this Corps could so far forget themselves, as to attempt any violence to you, or its Officers, it would be my greatest pleasure to die at your feet in your defence."—Then we conversed further on the subject, and it was agreed that we should all use our endeavours to discover whether any thing of this kind was going on; but agreed to conceal our suspicions as much as possible from every body, and recommended Major Welsh, as quick as possible, to apprehend the ghost. The next morning, as I was

* Aitwaur Syng.

riding with Mr. Hanbury and Mr. Douglas, we met Major Welsh, Captain Pepper, and Mr. Light. Major Welsh and myself talked over the subjects again. I told Major Welsh I had been considering what had passed yesterday, and thought it unlikely that a mutiny should break out in a place like Pallamcottah, where there were Europeans in the rear of it, to cut off its communication with other parts of the country; that therefore I hoped the alarm would prove groundless. Major Welsh said he had the highest opinion of his Corps, and had often been on service with them; and that he had received no further confirmation of his suspicions. He said, however, at the same time, that he had the day before received a Letter from the Adjutant-General's Office, which pointed out the relations of several persons concerned in the affair at Vellore and Nundydroog, in Major Welsh's Battalion.

Q.—After we had assembled at Mr. Douglas's house on the 19th November, what measures were proposed for the general safety?

A.—When I left Major Welsh on the 19th, shortly after I returned home I received a Note from him, saying that he had just discovered a plot to murder us all, which was to take place in ten days (but if discovered, immediately), as he had reason to believe it was; he therefore wished me to confer with Mr. Stratton, as something must be done immediately. This Note came as I was at breakfast; when breakfast was over, Major Welsh called on me, and I asked him how he

had discovered the plot. He told me it had been discovered by his Butler, who had been employed as one of his agents to watch ; that the Butler had overheard two different conversations at the Mosque, and that he (Major Welsh) had no doubt of the truth of his statement. Major Welsh then told me it was his intention to remain with his Corps, and let things take their course ; but that he wished much that the other Gentlemen should provide for their safety, by leaving the place. I advised him to consult Mr. Stratton. We went to Mr. Stratton's, where Major Welsh left me. Mr. Stratton and I agreed, that it was impossible we could leave our stations at a time like that. We considered Major Welsh's information, that the plot was to break out in ten days ; and it occurred to us, that at least a great proportion of the Corps must be ignorant of it, for that one thousand men could not preserve such a secret for such a length of time, particularly as we understood, that at Vellore, the greater part of the Sepoys were ignorant of what was to take place till the moment it broke out ; that we knew how unwilling men were to rise against their Officers, under whom they had served ; that in a moment like this, the energy of the European character was most conspicuous ; that there was no assistance within two hundred miles of us, and therefore (for these reasons) we concurred in opinion, that it would be better for Mr. Stratton to propose to Major Welsh, in the name of us all, that we should make some effort to stop the

business at the stage where it then was; and that therefore we should accompany him to the Fort, where we would propose to Major Welsh*, *that he should draw out his Corps, and tell them (the Sepoys), that he had received information that there were traitors amongst them, and to point out the men he most suspected, and to call on the Sepoys to deliver them up; and if the least resistance was shown to it, that the first person who offered it, should be immediately put to death; and to bring the matter at once to an issue, either to lose our lives, or to bring the Sepoys to a state of subordination.* Accordingly Mr. Stratton, Dr. McCabe, and myself, proceeded to Mr. Douglas's, where, we found Captain Pepper and Major Welsh. There we made the above-mentioned proposal, together with the reasons I have before mentioned, to Major Welsh. After some consideration, Major Welsh agreed in our opinion, and then Mr. Stratton told him that he (Mr. Stratton) understood and spoke the Hindoostannee perfectly well, and if he (Major Welsh) could not speak it fluently, he (Mr. Stratton) would speak for Major Welsh in front of the men. Major Welsh stated, there were two men in particular at the head of the business, and he was of opinion, that if those persons could be divided from the Corps, the accomplishment of the

* This romantic plan was exactly what I had determined upon, should the other Gentlemen agree to withdraw till the result should have proved its efficacy. I meant them only to go on a hunting party. Subsequent events rendered it abortive, as the men were running to their arms when we went to the Barracks, and the ringleaders had not gone outside.

plan would be easier. A few days before that, a Sepoy had been poisoned in the Barracks by his wife, and Major Welsh thought it would be a good opportunity to send those persons out of the Fort, to order them to Mr. Stratton, the Magistrate, to give their depositions on that murder, and stated, that he thought we could give more effectual assistance by remaining at the gardens to secure those men, than by accompanying him to the Fort. We acceded to this, and Major Welsh then proceeded to the Fort with that intention. About three hours afterwards we received intimation from the Fort, that Major Welsh had succeeded in securing the Native Officers, and disarming the Corps, amongst which were the two men who were to have been sent to us, but who had not obeyed the order. We then mounted our horses and rode to the Fort, where we found the Corps had been disarmed by Major Welsh.

Q.—On the same evening, what was it that I said to you, when desired to put the prisoners in irons?

A.—It was suggested at Major Welsh's door, where we were all standing, that it might be found expedient for the general safety to put the Native Officers in irons. Major Welsh refused so to do; and I remember that he turned round to me, and said that if it should be found necessary, he would not mind blowing one or two of them away at the muzzle of a gun; but that he never could consent to disgrace brave men like those, whom he had so often led into action, where they had behaved like gallant soldiers, by putting irons on them.

Q.—Do you recollect any confession made by one of the Subadars in confinement?

A.—I did not hear it, but Major Welsh told me at the very moment after it had been said to him, that while he was putting the old Subadar Secunder Cawn into confinement, he said, “What do I know of this? I heard Sheik Hyder say the other day at the Mosque, “you were all to be murdered.”

Q.—Do you remember examining any pouches we brought from the Barracks to the house on the evening of the 19th of November?

A.—Yes, I recollect Major Welsh sent to the Barracks for some pouches, and two barrels of ball ammunition from the stores: on examining the *cartridge boxes*, Major Welsh and I found two of them, I am certain of (and I rather think there were more), completely filled with *ball cartridges*. Major Welsh told me at the same time, that *ball ammunition had been taken the night before from the regimental stores without his orders*.

Q.—Was there a Malabar Letter read to us, from Quilon, on the morning of the 20th?

A.—There was. There were some curious and obscure expressions in it, hinting as if something of consequence was likely to take place.—It was addressed by the writer to his sister at Madura, intimating that he would get two months’ leave of absence after **January**, to come and see her, and that after that period he should not belong to the Service: it struck me to be an obscure Letter.

Q.—Did not you and Mr. Stratton peruse my Let-

ters to Trichinopoly, Travancore, and Ceylon, on the evenings of the 19th and 20th November?

A.—I recollect the Letter to Travancore, early on the morning of the 20th—that Mr. Stratton put Major Welsh's Letter to the Officer commanding Travancore into my hands.

Q.—Did it strike you as a proper Letter?

A.—I had no grounds of judgment but from the information of Major Welsh.

Q.—Were you and Mr. Stratton present when I wrote to Ceylon?

A.—We were present the whole morning when Major Welsh was writing, but whether to Ceylon or not, I cannot say.

Q.—Did I not propose to Mr. Stratton, to sign the Letter to Ceylon?

A.—Yes; I recollect some conversation on that point, between Major Welsh and Mr. Stratton. Mr. Stratton's objections to signing it were, that it involved a point of a military nature, of which he did not consider himself a competent judge.

Q.—What did Aga Nuzzer Ally and Mr. Fisher say respecting the man called the Vellore Facqueur?

A.—Mr. Fisher said that he had met that man near the Travancore gate, within the bounds of the Travancore country, and that he had abused all the Europeans in the grossest manner, and also Nuzzer Ally, for being in company with an European; “that the time for the Europeans was nearly come, and that he was the man chosen to cut off 10,000 heads.”

Q.—Did not Colonel Dyce approve my conduct on the 19th and 20th November?

A.—Lieutenant-Colonel Dyce appeared completely to approve all that Major Welsh had done, and went a degree further than Major Welsh.

Q.—What appears to you to be the sentiment concerning my conduct and measures?

A.—That Major Welsh acted with the best intentions, and to the best of his conscience and ability, to fulfil his duty towards the Government.

Here the Prisoner closes his Evidence, and makes the following written Address to the Court*.

CONCLUDING DEFENCE.

MR. PRESIDENT AND GENTLEMEN,

I HAVE now no further Evidence to call; but as mine has not been a common case, I trust I shall be allowed to say a few words in conclusion.

When I left Pallamcottah, in Command of the 1st Battalion 3rd Regiment, I little thought I should ever have to appear as a culprit, before a General Court Martial.

My Command was taken from me, in the first instance, on the road; and I was directed to proceed alone to Trichinopoly. It was not till after my arrival there that I was put in arrest, and made acquainted with the Charges given in against me; I was therefore not at *all* prepared for the event, and consequently

* After retiring for half an hour.

omitted to call on several Evidences who (it now appears) would have been essential; and it is known to this Court, that Mr. Stratton, the Judge of the Zillah (who was one of my most material Evidences) has been prevented by an accident from attending.

The Court has been so very kind as to offer to adjourn till other Evidences should be summoned; but I am anxious to avoid further delay, and have therefore declined it.

I trust the Evidences I have produced, have sufficiently established every point asserted in my Defence; I shall therefore only take the liberty to point out to the Court, the 4th Article of the 2nd Section of the Articles of War, which appears particularly applicable to my case.

And here I take my leave, impressed with the most lively sentiments of gratitude to this Honorable Tribunal, for the great indulgence I have experienced, during a long and tedious Examination, and most cheerfully resign the exculpation of my character into its hands.

(Signed)

J. WELSH,
Major, 1st Bat. 3rd Reg.

Madras, March 4, 1807.

The Court adjourned till Thursday, the 5th day of March.

Thursday, 5th March, 1807.

The Court assembled this day, pursuant to their Adjournment, and proceed to deliberate concerning their Sentence.

Whereupon 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 James 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) **D. CAMPBELL,**
Maj.-Gen. and President.

Approved and Confirmed,

(Signed) **J. F. CRADOCK,**
Lieut.-Gen. Commander-in-Chief

Fort St. George, March 7, 1807.

(Signed) **C. MARSH,**
Judge-Advocate General.

Note.—The same Court recommended Aitwar Syng, the Bengal Sepoy, to the particular favor of the Commander-in-Chief, who took no notice of the recommendation. This was mentioned to me by the President.

J. WELSH.

A P P E N D I X

TO THE

TRIAL OF MAJOR JAMES WELSH,

WITH OTHER

OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS

CONNECTED WITH THE SUBJECT.

The Notes were in the Copy delivered to the Court in my Defence, but which do not appear on the face of the Official Proceedings, from the Judge-Advocate having substituted the Original Letter, which he had obtained from Government, and of course all my Notes were thrown out, though actually forming a part of my Defence.

APPENDIX.

LETTER A.

To Lieutenant-Colonel Dyce, Commanding the Tinnevelly District, Pallamcottah.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to lay before you, a statement of the measures adopted here for the security of our lives previous to your arrival, together with the circumstances which led to them.

PARA. I. — On Sunday the 16th instant, in the morning, the Rev. Mr. Ringletaube was called to observe some blood sprinkled at the church-door: on examination, he found two large stains on each side of the threshold, and then drops of blood, leading from them, through the railings of one grave, and completely round another, where no further traces could be found.

This occurrence (although remarkable), under other circumstances, would have passed without observation, had I not learnt next morning, that the minds of the Sepoys had for some nights before been considerably agitated by a *ghost*, which demanded bread and water; sometimes informing those it met, that it

was the spirit of a *Moor* Commandant, who had been blown away from a gun by the English.

PARA. 2.—After breakfast, a Sepoy of the name of Eitwaur Syng, a Bengallie of the most upright and honorable character, whom I have had the good fortune to attach to me, by maintaining him many months, until a vacancy happened for him in the Corps (he having been several years in it formerly, and turned out, when the strength was reduced, five years ago,

PARA. 1.—A Portuguese Padry used to come now and then to Pallamcottah, to visit a Roman Catholic church, and invariably, on former occasions, used to visit Mr. Ringletaube, and Mr. Sawyer prior to his return to Manapar (his residence): it had been remarked during his last visit, that he was much occupied, and many confessions and penances were performed at his church. On the evening of the 15th November, he sent a servant to Mr. Ringletaube, advising him to go into the country. On that night he went off, without saying a word to any body, and the blood appeared at the English church next morning. On the 22nd, an anonymous Letter was found on the parade, directed to be opened by the Rev Mr. Ringletaube, and read on oath to Colonel Dyce, Mr. Stratton, Mr. Hepburn, and myself: it stated, that as the writer was going by the Nabob's choultry (which is on the road to the sea-coast), he overheard three Facqueers and a Chettie conversing together; they said, "that after the Europeans were murdered, " they were to form a camp, &c.; that Phaul Raott (a retailer of grain) " was to supply them with provisions, and Ramalingam (Colonel Macaulay's " dubash) was to send pepper, &c. from Travancore;" it was signed with a cross, and is still in my possession. Every endeavour of mine to trace the author (by similarity of writing, &c.) was without success; but the same day a small white flag was displayed at the Portuguese church, with a black cross in the centre. I am firmly of opinion, that the priest was the author of it and the bloody warning, though of course he dared not come forward; but what led me to attend to it at all, was a coincidence in an inverted Letter, intercepted in the Tappall from Travancore, and addressed to Ramalingam's brother-in-law, the only intelligible part of which, mentioned an intention of sending powder and flints to Pallamcottah.

without any provision, in a foreign country), and who was in the habits of visiting me every day, for a moment, to inquire after my health, had such a look of sorrow and dejection on his countenance, that I was astonished, and asked him what was the matter: he told me that Sheik Hyder had just ordered him on command to Shanganacoile; that his family were there; but still he wished to remain and watch over my safety; adding, in an *elevated voice*, “ I have no friends, no relation here but you; there is not such a thing as faith or honor in a black man; if it were possible that the men of this Corps could so far forget themselves, as to attempt *your* life, my only wish is to defend it, and die at your feet.” There were people in the verandah, and a sentry walking in front, in our hearing. I asked him if he had heard any news; he replied, “ No, Sir, who will tell me any?”— I made some inquiries about the blood and the ghost; he knew nothing of the former, but had heard of the latter; he said, he was not afraid of such things; “ that it was said to be a *villain* of a Subadar, who was blown from a gun for mutiny many years ago; that if he did walk at night, it was like a thief in the dark, and for no good purpose.”

PARA. 3.—The Detachment for Shanganacoile had been positively ordered by Lieutenant and Adjutant Wilson, to be furnished from the Third Company alone, and Eitwaur Syng belongs to the first. This, with the circumstances already related, made some impression

on my mind, especially as I had received *intelligence from you*, that there were incendiaries distributed all over the Carnatic to poison the minds of the Native Soldiers, and stir them up to revolt.

I immediately waited upon Mr. Hepburn, and mentioned my suspicions, that the *ghost* was irritating the Native Troops against the English. We proceeded to Mr. Stratton's, where (*in strict confidence*) he put into my hand a circular Letter from Government, informing him, that, from Evidences examined at Nundydroog and Bangalore, it had been ascertained that agents were suspected to be at work in different parts, under the habit of mendicant Facqueers, tampering with the Native Troops.

It was determined to take no notice of the blood, which we considered as a friendly warning of danger, but to devise means to secure the incendiary who had assumed the fictitious character of a *ghost*.

PARA. 4.—I returned home, and wrote you an account of these circumstances, and shortly after received your Letter from Courtallum, giving cover to Colonel Agnew's Letter of the 10th instant, directing your endeavouring to carry *Meeroo Naigue*, the brother of *Subadar Sheik Adom* (the ringleader at Vellore), along with you: this, with other information it contained, added to my uneasiness.

PARA. 3.—Vide Colonel Dyce's Letters, Appendix Nos. IX. and XI. detailing all the late transactions in full, he having seen the Public Reports, &c.; General M'Dowal's Letters on the subject of Nundydroog and Bangalore.

PARA. 4.—Vide Colonel Dyce's Letter, Appendix No. XII.

There were in the Corps two brothers of the ringleader, Sheik Adom,

PARA. 5.—The next morning Captain Pepper, my brother-in-law, and self, rode out very early, conversing on the best method of ascertaining the state of affairs, without divulging our own uneasiness. On my return home, I was informed, through the Butler, “that a plot to murder us all in ten days had been discovered by him; that the Moors appeared alone concerned, and that if they suspected any disclosure, they would perpetrate it immediately: the Tindal and my boy Ramasawmy in the plot.” Such of the Officers as came to breakfast with me, were *made acquainted with the discovery*, and we observed that we were narrowly watched by servants, Sepoys, &c., and my boy Ramasawmy disappeared for some time, returning while we were still at breakfast.

and two brothers of Jemadar Noor Mahomed. This man, *Meeroo*, was on leave to Vellore at the time that tragedy was rehearsing, and left it to return to the Corps only a few days before it was performed.

PARA. 5.—This was done in writing, with injunctions of silence and secrecy; and had we assembled together in private at this time in the Fort, it would have betrayed our knowledge of the plot, without tending to any real good. I only assured them all, that I would immediately take steps for the general safety.

Another remarkable circumstance had happened the evening before. It had been my custom at evening parades, to put the Corps through a few manœuvres in quick time, and fire immediately from the point of formation, as I would do in front of an enemy. On the evening of the 12th, present, Captain Pepper, Lieutenants Perkins, Gore, and Dumas (Lieutenant Wilson being unwell), a Collector's Peon brought a large packet (intended for Colonel Dyce at Courtallum); a Sepoy, or Non-Commissioned, of Lieutenant Gore's Company, turned pale, and touched another. I gave the packet to my Orderly, and began a manœvre. The men marched in disorder, formed ill, and, in short, did every thing in the most careless and slovenly manner. I admonished them to little purpose; and when the Officers fell

PARA. 6.—After breakfast Captain Pepper and I drove out to Mr. Hepburn's, where we found Messrs. Hanbury, Douglas, and M'Cabe; after speaking a few words, we proceeded to Mr. Stratton's, to mention the discovery I had made, and to avail myself of his advice. Apprehending that we might there be overheard, we proceeded to Mr. Douglas's house, as a more private place, and there also we observed the eyes of all upon us, and some Sepoys, dressed and undressed, the latter of whom moved off hastily. This combination of circumstances, left not a doubt in my mind as to the *immediate danger*.

PARA. 7.—On a general consultation, it was suggested and determined, in consideration of the ap-

out in front, Lieutenant Perkins observed, that the whole Corps were either drunk or stupid. I was pondering on the cause myself, and desired him not to speak so loud, as his remark was overheard, and could do no good. On every other occasion, I had remarked with much pleasure, that since the Vellore business, the Corps in a body were alert, and anxious to do well, and that, individually, they were more respectful and circumspect than ever.

Late that night, I was informed that a quantity of ball cartridges* had been taken out of the stores, (I supposed ostensibly for the drill). On examining the pouches next day, in search of ammunition, we found many with several, and one full of *ball cartridges*, the rest having the usual number (6) only.

* Mr. Hepburn has fully confirmed my assertion about the ball cartridges, which Lieutenant Gore could also have done, had I recollected the circumstance in time to call upon him; but this being only one out of fifty instances of treason at the time, it had escaped my memory. Worn down as I was by sickness at the time of my Trial, I could hardly recollect what particular people were present on different occasions.

parent urgency of the case, and the great danger which must accrue from delay in such circumstances (when it was evident that our knowledge of the plot had transpired), that we should immediately proceed in a body to the Fort, and seize the ringleaders; but on my representation of the necessity of securing the two principal ones outside, it was agreed that Captain Pepper and I should alone return to the Fort, and send them out under some pretence to the Magistrate, in order that they might be seized and secured; which the Gentlemen present agreed to effect.

PARA. 8.—Finding on my arrival, that the rest of the Officers had, in my absence, adopted a similar opinion, as to the propriety of seizing the ringleaders (which had now become the general sentiment), I in consequence determined to adopt that measure immediately, and sent for *Subadar Sheik Hyder and the Havildar Major*, and having given them a Letter, ordered them to take it themselves to the Magistrate; the former (in particular) *seemed much flurried, but assented*. I had people watching to give notice of their departure, which did not take place till two hours after, and learning at the same time, that there was a great stir among the Sepoys in the Fort, we immediately proceeded to the Barracks, ordering the Barrack-guard to fall in; we put ourselves at the head of it, priming and loading with ball cartridges, and each seizing a musket, made the Drummer beat

the long roll, while we marched into the Barracks and secured the arms, directing the men, as they arrived, to parade outside without arms, and the Native Officers who appeared, to join us—a scene of much confusion took place, but no tumult.

PARA. 9.—I told the men I knew that there was treason going on in the Corps; that I was come down to put it to the test; but that I and my Officers were resolved to sell our lives dearly, if necessary. At this time I observed Subadar Sheik Nutter very busy loading a musket, and I immediately loaded another; when he went up to Lieutenant Gore, and begged him to *prevent my shooting him*. I ordered him to lay down his musket among the rest, as I did not want the Battalion to fall in *under arms*.

PARA. 8.—The Subadar came first, and on receiving my Note went away, and shortly after the Havildar Major came, attended by two Sepoys completely armed (who stopped in my verandah; he told me Sheik Hyder wished to send somebody else, but on my repeating my orders to him, he went away again.

Havildar Abdul Alum (Brother to Subadar Abdul Nubby) had been, contrary to custom, my Orderly every other day since the 12th; he was so on the 18th, and next day came at noon with Letters from Colonel Dyce's gardens, as Havildar of the Guard, or Colonel's Orderly. He appeared very inquisitive. I was then writing, and ordered him back, with Letters to be sent by the Colonel's Tappall, in one of which I slipped a Note, as follows: "My dear Sir, I have discovered a plot to murder us all, and am going to take immediate measures. If I live till to-morrow all will be well; if not, I die in the execution of my duty." And this very man appeared afterwards at the Barracks at two, when I assembled the Corps, and was (with his brother, who had lately been reduced for insolence to Jemadar (now Subadar) Chenawash, then on Detachment) extremely officious, till ordered by me to fall in.

A Sepoy was at the same time observed to snap a piece (behind where I was standing), and was instantly knocked down by a Havildar: on examining the piece, it proved to be loaded. As soon as I had collected all the arms in a corner, I singled out Rungiaba Gentoo, Havildar, and six men of like caste, for a guard, and put it under the orders of Lieutenant Wilson, with directions, on no account whatever to suffer a man to approach the spot.

I marched the party to the general parade, keeping all the Native Officers (who had assembled one after another) in front, beating the long roll all the way. To our astonishment, Subadar Sheik Hyder and the Havildar Major (who it seems had disobeyed my order, in not going to the Magistrate) now appeared.

PARA. 9.—When *authentic* intelligence had been received of the tragical transactions at Vellore, I assembled the Native Officers, and told them the whole story. As soon as I had mentioned the number of Officers and Europeans butchered in cold blood, *Subadar Sheik Nutter* grinned in the most horrid manner; it was a *grin* of delight, of the most *diabolical* appearance, and made so much impression on my mind, that I mentioned it at the same time to several gentlemen. On the 15th instant, a Sepoy of the Light Company having come to me in an improper manner, and insisted on my giving him leave, I spoke to the Cote Havildar about the impropriety of allowing a man to come in that manner. Next morning I was too ill to attend parade. Captain Pepper commanded; and when he had dismissed the parade, *Subadar Sheik Nutter* and some others came forward, and said they had a complaint to make to me, and must see me; in particular, *Sheik Nutter* was presumptuous, and said I had abused him, in consequence of the Sepoy's misconduct. Captain Pepper told them, this was not a proper method; that I was unwell, but that he would mention it to me. I sent for *Sheik Nutter* in the presence of *Sheik Hyder*, and asked him what cause of complaint I had given him. He put his hands in a supplicating posture, and assured me he had none; talking in much too humble a style for a soldier. I supposed him a little in liquor, and sent him away satisfied.

PARA. 10.—I made the whole fall in on the parade in line, and then ordered the Gentoos, Malabars, Rajahpoots, and Christians, to fall out, and form in front; when I gave them the loaded arms, telling the Moormen, “ that by the blessing of God, I hoped I had “ defeated a plot to murder me and their European “ Officers, which I know several Moormen were “ engaged in, from having been misled by the malicious “ falsehoods and influence of enemies and incen- “ diaries ; that I found it absolutely necessary, for my “ own safety, to disarm them all, until the business “ should have been investigated.”

PARA. 11.—I requested the Native Officers to accompany us to my quarter, the Hindoo guard following: there I told them that I was obliged to request them to stay in a room, *putting sentries over the door*. We then returned to the Barracks, armed some more of the Hindoo Sepoys and the Drummers, and took possession of the gates successively ; locked two gates, and brought away all the arms to the General Stores, and then formed two parties of equal strength, one there, and the other at my quarters opposite to it; after which we called all the Moormen, and told them, “ that, “ under the present circumstances, it would be neces-

PARA. 12.—At this time Mr. Sawyer, Paymaster's Head Writer, observed my Orderly hissing at me behind my back, and heard him say in Malabar (when I called out, “ Fall in”) “ Yes, yes, you may call, but we will see “ who will come now.” On being informed of this I put him in irons, but released him two days after, with some wholesome admonition.

“sary to march them out of the Fort, where they must remain until an investigation had been made, as to the innocence or guilt of their Native Officers.”

At sun-set I wrote an Express to Colonel Campbell, stating matters as they then appeared, and soliciting immediate succours.

PARA. 12.—We separated the Native Officers into two parties, confining one half at the General Stores. One old Subadar, Secunder Cawn, however, was put into a godown contiguous to my house (being told he was a particular ringleader), and when I was shutting the door, and advised him to confess the truth, he said, “*he know nothing further than that Sheik Hyder had once said at the Mosque, that we were all to be murdered.*” This, when questioned next day, he positively denied, and pleaded entire ignorance, which we can only account for, from the Tindal (an accomplice) being confined in the same place at night, for want of another secure place.

PARA. 11.—Here it may be necessary to affirm, that although I found it expedient to confine the Native Officers, I never forgot that they were *Commissioned Officers*, or treated them with the slightest indignity. They had chairs to sit on, and retained their swords till night. I put no further restraint on them than was consistent with our own safety, and allowed their own servants and families to attend them with their victuals, &c., only informing them, that I should not hesitate, in my situation, to put any man to death on the spot, who should attempt to force his way.

PARA. 12.—I have since learnt, that Lieutenant Gore was present with me when this man confessed the *plot*; this was sworn to by the Butler; and what makes it more probable is, that Secunder Cawn only returned from two months' leave to Madura on the 15th; so that it was natural, that on the

PARA. 13.—Next morning, still impressed with the same idea of our situation, I wrote (with the general concurrence) a Letter to the Honorable Major-General Maitland, requesting immediate assistance; stating for a reason, the supposed spreading mutinous principles all over the coast, and there being no Europeans nearer than Trichinopoly, and four Native Corps to the southward of it. This Letter I enclosed to Mr. Baggott at Tutucoryn, desiring him to forward it immediately by sea, offering a reward for speedy delivery, which he did immediately, at the expence of 300 pagodas.

PARA. 14.—I beg leave to observe, that I submitted every Letter to Messrs. Stratton and Hepburn, previous to my dispatching them; they having insisted on my assuming the entire command of them, and all, in every thing regarding military measures, for the general good.

PARA. 15.—I also wrote a hasty Letter to the Officer commanding in Travancore, warning him of the apparent danger, as I understood the Vellore and northern mendicants had proceeded there some time before.

first meeting, he should be made acquainted with the nature of a plot in which he was called upon to become an actor. A quarrel with a Facqueer prevented their meeting on the 16th and 17th, both nights of which the Butler watched, having overheard Sheik Hyder say on the 15th, "the former business has failed; let us meet again to-morrow night."

PARA. 15.—A Letter which the Tappall man brought early this morning,

PARA. 16.—After breakfast on the 20th, a Committee was formed, of Messrs. Stratton, Hepburn, and

was opened (in consequence of the message he had received from the prisoner Madur Saib), and read to us by the Vakeel and Writer Major. It was from a Sepoy, or Non-Commissioned, of the Travancore Subsidiary Force, to a relation at Madura, and hinted that he would have no further service in a month or two ; but desired the receiver to be quiet, and appear to have received only Bazar news, mentioning a person having brought a verbal message safe. A Havildar of my own Corps had turned a *Facqueer*, under circumstances reported to the Commander-in-Chief, and had proceeded to Travancore with others, at least two months before. Besides, the suspicious *Facqueer*, known to have come from Vellore in July (and with whom my Native Officers were consulting on the 15th and 18th November), had absconded on the morning of the 19th, and proceeded to Travancore.

EXPLANATORY NOTE.

Copy of my Letter on the subject of the Havildar.

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

SIR,

I TAKE the liberty to solicit the Commander-in-Chief's permission to discharge a Sepoy of the Corps, under particular circumstances which require explanation, and am obliged to trespass on His Excellency's time, in order to justify my apparent severity to an old man and an old soldier. On the 2nd of July I obtained Lieutenant-Colonel Dyce's permission to be absent from my station for the benefit of my health and that of my family ; but a few days after, receiving the accompanying Proceedings of a Battalion Court-Martial (assembled by my authority), I determined immediately to return to my station, and be present myself at the publication of the Sentence : the crime of which the prisoner had been convicted, being of so extraordinary a nature, that it appeared to require immediate and exemplary punishment, and, at the same time, I thought it my duty to explain to the Corps, in the fullest manner, my sentiments on such a flagrant breach of discipline. I assembled the Corps, and the sentence was carried into execution on the 11th July, since which time (until within these few days) the delinquent remained in hospital ; but after being discharged, he positively refused to dress, or do any duty, and insists on turning a *Facqueer*. Consideration for his age and former services, makes me averse to punish him further ; and

myself, my Officers (six in number), and the other Gentlemen being employed in military duty: we immediately proceeded to examine Evidences; and my Butler (who had been employed as one of my agents for the discovery of any treasonable pro-

as all entreaties are in vain, I am compelled to exert my authority, and turn him, not only out of the Corps, but out of the Garrison, until such time as I shall receive his discharge; he being considered as an obstinate and violent man by all the Native Officers (to whom he has frequently shewn his turbulent disposition). It may be necessary to say, I have Lieutenant-Colonel Dyce's express permission to turn all such men as are discharged, out of the Fort. As I did not find the same objection against an exercise of clemency towards the rest of the prisoners then tried, I was happy to meet the wishes of the Court, and forgave them.

I hope His Excellency will not infer (from this circumstance) a state of insubordination in this Corps—few are the punishments inflicted in it, indeed seldom any (but for desertion among the late drafts); and I am too well aware of the sacred trust reposed in me, to overlook misconduct in any man.

Dated
Pallamcottah,
September 1st, 1806.

(Signed) J. WELSH,
Capt. Commanding
1st Bat. 3rd Reg. N. I.

Note.—The Proceedings alluded to are with the Corps, being among the Official Vouchers of the Battalion. The men tried were *Emauon Ally*, *Havildar*, a *Naigue*, and three or four *Sepoys*, for gross neglect of duty, and pointed disobedience of orders given by Captain Pepper (who commanded in my absence); and to this the *Havildar* added insolence, which amounted to mutiny, and was nearly being cut down by Captain Pepper at the time. The Court sentenced him to be reduced to the ranks, and to receive 300 or 500 lashes; but recommended him to me for mercy, as a very old soldier. I issued an Order on my return, and explained it myself to the Corps—"that the offence this man has committed, was such as I never could pardon in any man; and that so far from being lessened, it was aggravated by his being an old soldier, as he should have known better how to behave to his immediate superior, when on duty." I forgave the rest, because they had not added insolence to their other offences.

H. C. S. Indus, off the Cape,
September 16, 1807.

(Signed) J. WELSH.

ceedings) deposed on oath, "That on the night of the
 " 18th he had overheard a conversation between a
 " Facqueer from Vellore, Subadar Sheik Hyder, the
 " Havildar Major, and two other Native (Moor)
 " Officers; stating, that they had formerly failed at the
 " time of hoisting the strange flag (which occasioned
 " us so much uneasiness), but that now matters were
 " different; that Moormen were alone to be let into
 " the secret, and that we were all to be murdered in
 " ten days," &c. His Evidence was apparently clear
 and satisfactory. The next person that came forward
 was my boy* *Ramasawmy* (the same the Butler sus-
 pected of being in the plot), who swore, "*That as he*
" was walking along the Barrack-street four or five
" nights ago, he observed an assembly, and overheard
" one man say, 'that there were forty or fifty (sup-
" ' posed to mean thousands) at the Bala Ghaut,
" ' coming down—that Tippoo and the Nabob were
" ' no more; that the English were a handful; the
" ' French would give double pay; that we must be
" ' killed; that the arrival of those forces from Bala
" ' Ghaut, would create a great gurburry, or confusion.'"

PARA. 16.—This Deposition at full length I beg leave here to lay before the Court, as it was exactly the same as the intelligence he first communicated, which induced me to take the steps I did the day before. The Court can again question him on the several parts of it in person. Vide Deposition No. I.

This boy I have already stated to have been in the plot. Observing the success of my measures, and not knowing the extent of my intelligence, he came to me and Mrs. Welsh the evening before, and told us this very story, only speaking positively as to the persons of Sheik Hyder, Syed Cawder, and Sheik Hussein, Native Officers. See Deposition No. III.

PARA. 18.—It having come out in Evidence, that Sheik Hyder's brother (who is also in confinement) had sent a message to the Tappall Conicopuly, to prevent his own and his brother's Letters falling into my hands, we were induced, in consequence, to order such to be opened*, as we thought might lead to further discovery. In one Letter, we found this remarkable passage: "To the north of Cotahcottah, the
 " residence of the Rajah of Tondemaun, there is a
 " village called Oottapilla Goodie; to the south-west
 " of which there is a hill, where the Elixir of Immor-
 " tality is to be found; principal people from the
 " north and south come there, and make the philoso-
 " pher's stone, and depart. At Oopala Goody, Raram
 " Shachama Rauze, the Dewaun of the Rajah Tonde-
 " maun, resides: if you will wait on him, you will
 " understand the story of the hill. The end will be
 " accomplished. Shachama Rauze's son-in-law, Ner-
 " rior Rauze, is come about the same business to my
 " house; if you let him understand this circumstance
 " (he is a patient man, of conciliation and intelli-
 " gence), through his means all your business will
 " prosper. This you must understand; stay near that
 " hill; those who come there you must see, and the
 " business in your heart will be accomplished."

* It was addressed to a Tindal at Pallamecottah, and signed by a butler of Lord W. C. Bentinck's.

PARA. 18.—Vide Depositions Nos. X. and XI. The incendiary (whom we styled the Vellore Faequeer) who absconded on the 19th November for Travancore, met Aga Nuzzer Ally, son-in-law to the Persian Ambassador,

PARA. 19.—Part of another Letter was written in inverted Malabar characters, which have not yet been decyphered.

I wrote this day a short Letter to you, and another to Colonel Agnew, detailing circumstances as well as I could; and we determined to concentrate our force, by confining all the Native Officers in two rooms in the General Stores. Matters continued in this state, until your arrival on the morning of the 21st.

Continual business has prevented my being sooner able to make this Report; which I trust will be corroborated by the general voice of those by whom I have been so ably supported.

I have omitted to mention Mr. Stratton's Carnatic Peons, a party of whom came in the first day, and who were increased the second day to about 200, and whom I found most useful and vigilant in every post where I stationed them. They still occupy half of the safeguards on the ramparts.

with a Mr. Fisher, travelling from the southward towards Madras; he immediately asked the Aga to assist him to kill Mr. Fisher; and on his refusal, the Facqueur abused him, saying he was joined to the villanous English;—that he himself was a Prophet of God, come into this country to shave 10,000. The Aga kicked him out of the choultry before Mr. Fisher's face.

PARA. 19.—This Letter was partly decyphered afterwards, by reversing it before a looking glass—it was from Travancore (where Ramalingam then was) to Ramalingam's brother-in-law at Pallamcottah, mentioning *powder and flints*, but was too intricate to be fully understood, or even read, by all the people we employed.

PARA. 20.—After the Native Officers were removed from my house to the General Stores, they assured Captains Wilson and Pepper and myself, that they were ready to embrace our religion, in the following terms—“Toomareh zaut mee meeljunnah, Toomareh “*Meezub mee Milnah*,” &c. and to wear topies and crosses, to *convince us* of their fidelity!!!

PARA. 21.—Another circumstance served much to corroborate the Evidence of a plot among the Moormen of the Corps—that the only Native Officers* detached (excepting *one*, to Calcaud, Captain Wilson’s station, *who* was on bad terms with the rest), were on some pretext or other all Malabars, &c. and among twenty present, only one was not a Mussulman.

Note to PARA. 20, added subsequently in September 1807, on board the Indus.

“Toomaureh Muzub mee Milnekoo Pauzee hei”

“Toomaureh zaut mee Milangch”

“Toomaureh Topeeah Peennékoo tiar hei, Toomaureh

“Khaunnah, Khaunekoo, Bhee, rauzee hye Sahib—”

Or, in the Hindoostanny character, as near as I can recollect,

تماري منصب مبن ماني كوراضي هبن & تمارب زات مبن ملاينگي
&c. &c.

Let any man who understands Hindoostanny, and the intolerant tenets of the Mussulman faith, decide on the innocence of these nineteen bigotted Moormen.

* We have twenty-four Native Officers.

PARA. 21 —There were in the Corps (out of twenty-four Native Officers) 20 Mussulmen; the Havildar Major, drill and plummet Havildars, all Mussulmen; 50 Havildars, 40 Naigues, and about 450 privates, also Mussulmen; and the Native Officers had perhaps 100 relations in this number.—Total 563.

The other castes were as follows 4 Native Officers (only Jemadars);

PARA. 22.—Considering the general rumour of disaffection, the certain knowledge of Tacheer incendiaries from Vellore, Peonah, and Hyderabad, having been in the Fort, together with the recent occurrences at Nundydroog and Bangalore, added to a situation so remote from European succour; I trust that, under such circumstances (and those above detailed), my conduct, and the precautionary steps that have been taken, may be justified, both in your opinion, and that of Government and the Commander-in-Chief.

Pallamcottah,
25th November, 1806.

(Signed) **J. WELSH,**
Major Commanding 1st Bat
3rd Reg. Native Infantry.

P. S.—I have to apologize for many blots and scratches, which in my hurry have been unavoidable.

APPENDIX, N^o. I.

DISTRICT ORDER.

23rd July, 1806.

THE Officer Commanding the 1st Battalion 3rd Regiment, will forthwith assemble a Committee, of

12 Havildars; 20 Naigues, and 450 privates; many of which were detached.
—Total 486.

Lieutenant Hill, the late Adjutant, had been so very ill, that he was unable to attend to any thing. The Roster for duty and detachment among the Natives of the Corps, was kept by Subadar Sheik Hyder and the Havildar Major, the Jemadar Adjutant being also sick in hospital for several months before.

which he will be President, consisting of all European Officers present, to determine, after examination into the character and connexions of the drafts lately received from the 6th Extra Battalion, on the individuals whom (under existing circumstances) it becomes urgently expedient to disarm, and provisionally to dismiss from the Service, until higher authority can be obtained.

The men to be discharged, are to be directed immediately to quit the Garrison, under an assurance that their arrears of pay and regular certificates will be delivered to them as early as possible.

Captain Welsh will direct all the Commissioned Native Officers to attend the Committee, as deliberative Members.

(Signed)

ALEX. DYCE,
Lieutenant-Colonel.

N^o II.

From Courtallum.

(PRIVATE).

MY DEAR SIR,

I AM glad to hear you are all right at Pallamcottah, and hope we shall soon have more pleasant accounts from the Northward, of the state of the public feelings regarding the Native Troops.

I think it very advisable that you should use every means to ascertain the temper of your people at this crisis; but without showing, or giving cause to suspect, any distrust on your part. I would not rely upon the

statement of your own most confidential Native Officers—hear them, and consult them; but endeavour, through other channels, to learn if their statements are correct, and what *they themselves* may have privately said, or may be supposed inclined to do, if the flame should spread unhappily wider.

I would hope much from the rescinding of the General Order. But if their principles are sapped by treason, fanaticism, or bribery, the hope will be vain, and it will be well to *know* even the worst. Keep this suggestion to yourself, for I have no valid grounds for suspicion.

Yours truly,

(Signed) ALEX. DYCE.

25th July.

N^o III.

GARRISON ORDERS.

4th August, 1806.

LIEUTENANT-COLONEL DYCE has just heard with the greatest surprise, that a report has been circulated among the Troops in this Garrison, respecting the march of some Companies of Europeans for Pallamcottah, in order to carry into effect certain regulations about the dress, &c. &c. of the Native Troops. He hastens therefore to assure the Officers and Sepoys of the 1st Battalion 3rd Regiment, upon his word of Honour as a Soldier, that this report is wholly groundless,