

determine on nothing until the different agents from Mahomed Alli Khán and the Nizám arrived. I asked him what great things could they hope for from the proposals or even friendship of either the Nizám or Hyder Alli, who had both given them many proofs that no treaties were binding longer than it served convenience, and added, they must be convinced by experience it was quite the reverse with the English, who had ever paid the strictest attention to every one they entered into. He replied he could not say what part they should act. There were three ways for them to pursue—1st, to join the Nizám and Hyder Alli against Mahomed Alli Khán and us; 2nd, to join Mahomed Alli and English against the Nizám and Hyder Alli; the 3rd, to prevail on the Nizám to remain neutral and join the English and Mahomed Alli against Hyder Ally. The first he confessed required consideration, for though the Nizám was in friendship with them, yet he had in part broken it by supporting their professed enemy, Hyder Alli. I then told him it would be saving of much time if he would let me know what proposals they had to make that I might receive directions from Bombay by the time Nágojiráv arrived. He said they should not enter upon that subject until he was here.

From the whole tenor of the Darbár's behaviour, and their not choosing to open themselves but endeavouring to draw what they can from me, I have great reason to think they have something in reserve to say either with respect to Hyder Alli in Janjira, but chose if possible it should first come from me, and I have agreeably to your Honor and Council's instruction as studiously endeavoured to draw it from them without opening myself or giving them the least intimation of it being any part of my embassy. This, though it will take time, I am in hopes of accomplishing through the means of the young Rájá of Bednur whom Mádhavráv brought with him last year. His mother the Ráni died on the road. He has several times sent his man to me, requesting I would interest myself in his behalf, and provided the Hon'ble Company would reinstate him in his government, has promised to reimburse them their charges and give them any stronghold on the sea coast with an exclusive right to the pepper and sandalwood trade. But this desirable end I was convinced cannot be accomplished without a strong land force. I therefore said, as the Rájá was now in the hands of the Maráthás, it would be impossible for him to enter into any treaty without their consent. He replied that not only Mádhavráv but some of his ministers were willing to assist him, provided their *chauth* could be secured to them without the trouble they now labour under of recovering it by force. I told him, if he was convinced that to be the case, if he would prevail on Mádhavráv to speak to me about it, I would give Mádhavráv an answer, and do all in my power to assist the Rájá. He told me he made not the least doubt of doing it in a few days. For the foregoing reasons I have avoided letting the Darbár know the principal part of my errand, and hope they will be approved of by your Honor and Council, more especially as there is not the least appearance of their joining the Nizám and Hyder Alli, which seems to me a very principal point, for it is positively said Mádhavráv will not take the field this year, and from his discharging a number of his people I dare believe it to be true. The chief motive given for this inactivity at so favourable a juncture for his getting possession of the Bednur country, now quite destitute of any force, is his apprehensions of Raghoba creating some disturbance should he leave his capital for any time, whose late behaviour perplexes them a good deal, for he is marching about with his forces, and various are the reports of his intentions; nay so jealous are they of him, that it was five days after my application before I could procure the passports for Mr. Brome to go to Násik. He set out for that place the 19th, and if your Honor and Council think proper his remaining there some time may be of service by keeping this court alarmed, and prevent their forming any project to our prejudice. It is also confidently reported that Joarsing the Jat Rájá and Bijaysing the Márwár Rájá have entered into an alliance and are endeavouring to persuade Mádhavsing of Junágad and the Rájá of Bundikot to accede to it, which, if they should, will be another motive for keeping the attention of the Maráthás employed in this way.

On the 27th I paid Sakhárám Bápu a visit and requested he would give me an opportunity of finishing the trifling business I had to do, which he promised, and accordingly on the 19th, in the evening, I was again sent for to the Darbár, when there were present Sakhárám Bápu, Govind Shivrám, Nána Fadanavis and Rámáji Chitnis. Mádhavráv opened the conversation by asking me if I had anything to say. I told him, not much; but as I found he was unwilling to acquaint me with his reasons for desiring a gentleman might come here, I should, without hesitation, inform him of the particulars and set forth the four following:—

1st.—That about a year and a half ago the ketch “Lively” was obliged by bad weather to take shelter in Chaul harbour and ever since there detained at the utter destruction of the owners, and though he had given orders for the release of her and cargo, no obedience was paid thereto by his officers.

2nd.—That notwithstanding the losses our merchants had suffered from the depredations committed by the officers of his fleets, the loss had been settled at the trifling sum of rupees thirty thousand nine hundred and fifteen three-quarters and fifty reas, three years ago, and his orders then passed for the payment, yet this also had never been done; nor the battela belonging to Nasarvánji Modi returned, or the battela of two hundred khándis ordered to be given Byránji Homji in lieu of his grab has not yet been complied with.

3rd.—That though the Orpár affair had been so long settled, yet the owners of the boats that were there seized could not attend their business for fear of being laid hold on, which his officer there had threatened in case they appeared out of Surat town in order to reimburse himself.

4th.—That several slaves belonging to gentlemen at Bombay that had been at Thána and other places and Governor Crommelin three years ago procured an order for their delivery, yet when it was produced, they were secreted and could not be found.

In answer to the above Mádhavráv said that with regard to the ketch “Lively” an order should be given for her release, also the 3rd and 4th articles adjusted, but the amount of thirty thousand nine hundred and fifteen three-quarters and fifty reas agreed to be paid for the losses our merchants had sustained was on condition that fourteen articles he had sent to Governor Crommelin should first be settled. I replied that those articles had been answered. He said it was true, but they never were adjusted, and in reply thereto he had written a second letter by Ránoji Khidmatgár, to which no answer was ever given. As I was ignorant of that transaction, I desired he would give me the copy of that letter that I might write regarding it, which he directed Rámáji Chitnis to do, but it was not till last night that I was able to procure it, and then without date. I request your Honor and Council's directions regarding it, and sincerely hope my conduct hitherto will meet with your approval.

Cassids that arrived in 26 days from Nizám Alli's camp mention that his and our forces are encamped within six or eight kos of each other, where they remain quiet; that Hyder Alli had raised the siege of Amburgar twenty-eight days ago after having been fourteen days before it. Letters from Masulipatam also mention that a number of Europeans (how many they do not say) had landed there from Bengal; that part immediately marched for Madras and the rest waited for further orders; likewise that the inhabitants of Hyderabad were in some consternation for fear of our attacking that place.

I remain very respectfully,

Hon'ble Sir and Sirs,

Your most obedient humble Servant,
THOMAS MOSTYN.”

Poona, 25th December 1767.



Monday, 28th.—This day at noon arrived three express camels in twelve days from Nizám Alli's camp, one despatched to Surjang and Chanda Sáheb's son, thinking they must ere this be arrived here, and two to Mádhavráv. There is no news on the road what is become of the Nizám's and Hyder Alli's agents, nor can I learn for certain where they are. However immediately sent to procure the best intelligence regarding them and the Karnátak.

In the evening the people I sent to learn the news from the Karnátak by the camels returned and informed me that we and Mahomed Alli Khán are much too powerful for the Nizám and Hyder Alli, who dare not face them, but frequent skirmishes between parties happen, in which they are always worsted. They have therefore sent pressingly to Mádhavráv for assistance. This Rámáji Chitnis likewise confirms, and that Hyder Alli is enlisting all the troops he possibly can. They also say that the Nizám would willingly make peace, but Hyder Alli by every means in his power prevents him, promising to defray all the expenses of the war.

Tuesday, 29th.—Notwithstanding my pressing entreaties every day to procure the order for the release of the ketch "Lively", I have as often with very frivolous excuses been put off; therefore in the evening sent to Govind Shivrám and Rámáji Chitnis to know the meaning of it, and requested their resolution whether they would give me the order or not.

Wednesday, 30th.—This morning Rámáji Parvoe acquaints me that the order for the delivery of the "Lively" is finished and only wants Mádhavráv's sign, which he cannot put this morning owing to his wife's going to condole with her mother at Násik on the loss of her husband, but that in the evening he would do it.

At 12 o'clock the Mirza of the pattamars brought a pair of cassids just arrived from Nizám Alli's camp, who acquaint me that after they were on the road about four days they learnt that there had been an engagement near Amburgar between the Nizám, Hyder Alli and Mahomed Alli Khán, wherein the former were entirely routed and had retired about eight kos on this side the field of battle and a pair of pattamars might be expected every hour with the particulars.

In the afternoon I was informed that the Nizám and Hyder Alli had lost in the engagement thirty thousand foot and one thousand and two hundred horse killed, also four elephants with their colours and nobut and 70 pieces of cannon; that all the Europeans in Hyder Alli's service had deserted to Mahomed Alli.

Late this evening Rámáji Parvoe brought me the order for the ketch "Lively", which I would immediately despatch to Bombay, but wait to hear the particulars of the engagement between the Nizám and Mahomed Alli Khán.

Thursday, 31st.—At noon I am informed that no more particulars of the engagement is brought than what is already set forth.

This evening Mahomed Alli Khán paid me a visit. He has, I find, much the ear of Mádhavráv privately and has in some measure been instrumental in getting the order for the "Lively" and in furthering such other business I have to finish. After talking on the foregoing I asked the purport of the advices brought by the express camels arrived the 28th. He informed me that the Nizám had written Mádhavráv pressingly for assistance; that in case he could not come himself to send even an officer with ten thousand horse which would be of great service at this juncture, and that on the like occasion he in return would assist him, and desired he would send orders to Gopálráv, the Commander of his forces in those parts, not to molest Hyder Alli's country for such part of last year's revenues as might be due; that he (Hyder Alli) had paid that to the shroffs, and for this year's he would be accountable. Mádhavráv asked his opinion (that as he himself is determined not to go any where this year) whether he should comply the Nizám's request



for ten thousand horse? Mahomed Alli replied that if the Nizám and Hyder should be worsted that his business would be done without interfering or giving the English cause of disgust, meaning he would recover his tribute from Hyder Alli without trouble; that as they were in a declining way his assisting them with ten thousand horse would not in all likelihood retrieve their affairs, and should he lend his assistance, and they then not succeed, he would not only lose his credit, but also disoblige the English, whose assistance he may depend upon, provided they were on friendly terms, and who, he might be assured, will not take advantage of his distress, as the Nizám certainly will, he knows by experience, whenever a favourable opportunity offers, and Mahomed Alli assured me for certain, that Mádhavráv will not either go himself or lend Hyder Alli any assistance. The reasons he gave me I have already set forth in my diary, that is, the fear of Rághoba raising some disturbance, besides he is under engagements to pay the whole of the amount stipulated in their late accommodation by the Diváli, the balance of which is twenty lákhs. Until he has done this he does not look upon himself at liberty to undertake any thing. He likewise told me that Mádhavráv read the letter received on 30th to him, wherein it says the Nizám was very desirous of peace, and some overtures had passed between him and Mahomed Alli Khán, which Hyder Alli had taken disgust at, and had separated from the Nizám with an intent, as he gave out, of returning towards Bednur. I took this opportunity of asking him what Mádhavráv intended doing for the Rájá of Bednur, hinting that if he purposed reinstating him in his government, that a more favourable opportunity could not offer. He replied, Mádhavráv was desirous of serving him, but should not think of it until next year, when he would himself take the field.

January.

Friday, 1st.—This morning Gopál Chakradhar, Rághoba's Vakil, here came to see me. In the course of our conversation I asked him the situation of affairs between Rághoba and Mádhavráv. He very openly told me that notwithstanding the late reconciliation they placed no confidence in each other, and that I might depend upon it Rághoba would not sit down quietly under the disgrace of having all the principal forts taken out of his hands and no share in the Government; that he only waited to see if Mádhavráv failed in any of his agreements with him, which, should he do in the least point, Rághoba would certainly make use of it to foment matters and, at any rate, I should see in six months what a disturbance he would create. He likewise told me in confidence that Rághoba had concerted measures for entering into a strict and lasting friendship with the English and intended sending a person to Madras on this account, but as Mr. Brome was now gone to him he would now defer it, and assured me it was Rághoba's sincere desire to be on the most amicable footing with us.

Arrived a pair of cassids from the Nizám's camp to Mádhavráv in twenty days, confirming what the pattamars reported that arrived the 30th ultimo from Mahomed Alli Khán, also that all the Europeans had deserted Hyder Alli.

Saturday, 2nd.—This morning intelligence is brought me that Surjang and Chanda Sáheb's son, Vakils from the Nizám and Hyder Alli, are arrived at Vánoudi, one and half kos off, and would come into town to-morrow; that they have been two months sixteen days on the road. As the Nizám and Hyder Alli's affairs appear to be in a declining way and they very pressing with Mádhavráv for his assistance, it is most probable these agents will immediately make their proposals with very large offers. I judge it therefore necessary to acquaint my superiors at Bombay of their arrival, requesting their directions whether I shall open myself by explaining my errand to them, as I find they will not speak plain themselves, and the prospect I had of bringing them to do it



through the means of the Bednur Rájá has failed, for Mádhavráv has told him he cannot assist him this year. Agreeably to the foregoing, despatched the following address to Bombay per sepoy express:—

“To

THE HON'BLE THOMAS HODGES, ESQUIRE,

President and Governor and Council at Bombay.

HON'BLE SIR AND SIRs,—My last respect waited on your Honour and Council the 25th ultimo, setting forth my transaction and situation of affairs to that time, and this is despatched purposely to advise you of the arrival of Surjang and Chanda Sáheb's son, Vakils from the Nizám and Hyder Alli, at Vánoudy, about one and a half kos out of town, and will make their entrance to-morrow. They have been two months and sixteen days on the road.

It is with pleasure I can acquaint your Honour and Council for certain that our forces in the Karnátak have, twenty-five days ago, again defeated the Nizám and Hyder Ally about five kos from Amburgar, and obliged them to retreat eight kos further to the northward. The particulars of the killed and wounded the cassids could not tell me, but they believe a great number, as the battle lasted four hours, and particularly many elephants which they posted in the front of their line. By a letter received the 30th ultimo from Mádhavráv's Vakil attending the Nizám's camp and told me by a person who heard it read, the Nizám is heartily tired of the war. Some overtures had passed between him and Mahomed Alli Khán, at which Hyder Alli had taken disgust, separated from him with an intent, as he gave out, of returning towards Bednur.

As the Nizám's and Hyder Alli's agents are arrived, they, I imagine, will immediately make their proposals, and if your Honor and Council still think it necessary to attempt forming a junction with the Maráthás, I request your directions whether I shall speak plainly to them, for I find they will not open themselves, which I was in hopes of, through the means of the Rájá of Bednur, but Mádhavráv told him he cannot assist him this year, but intended going himself to the southward, the next will take him along with him. I do not hear any news of Nágojiráv.

Inclosed your Honor and Council will be pleased to receive the order on Visáji Pant for the release of the “Lively” ketch.

Poona, 2nd January 1768.

I remain, very respectfully,

Hon'ble Sir and Sirs,

Your most obedient humble Servant,

THOMAS MOSTYN.”

Monday, 4th.—This morning Mahádji Sindia, the officer who commanded the Marátha forces in Hindustán, is arrived at Sangam, where Mádhavráv went to receive him.

Tuesday, 5th.—This afternoon went to Govind Shivrám to sift out if possible the views of the Darbár with regard to the Nizám and Hyder Alli as their agents are now arrived, and I hear the 8th is fixed for their public audience; but from the conversation that passed I judge they are not yet determined on what part they shall take with respect to them or the Karnátak.



However I find our detention of Angria's sons chagrined them much, and is what I imagine they will make a heavy complaint about, and I fear may be a means for their refusing to deliver up several deserters now here.

In the evening Mádhavráv sent his compliments and desired to see me. I accordingly went, where, waiting a little time, he desired I would stay and sup with him, which I complied with. Before supper during our conversation on indifferent matters with regard to Europe and India, I told him the Rájá of Bednur had several times sent his man to me to request my interest in his behalf, but as he was now in a manner a prisoner of his, I could give him no answer until I know his intentions regarding him, therefore should be glad to know what he purposed doing for him. He replied that his bringing him here was with an intention of serving him, which he should do when a proper opportunity offered.

Wednesday, 6th.—A pair of cassids arrived yesterday evening from Rájás Joarsing and Bijaysing, mentioning that peace is not yet established between them and Mádhavsing, but will now in all likelihood soon as Badarsing, Rájá of Rupnagar, has interfered.

Thursday, 7th.—Mahomed Alli Khán this evening sent me word that he heard some shroff's letter in town says that peace is concluded between the Nizám and Hyder Alli Khán through the means of Mr. Smith promising the Nizám fifteen lákhs of rupees, but in lieu of of money the English have agreed to assist him with a body of Europeans, which are to be paid by Mahomed Alli Khán; that the Nizám had separated from Hyder Alli and is quartered at Dowan Choully, leaving his Diván with a large force with him, who is encamped near Káveripattan.

Friday, 8th.—This morning Surjang and Chanda Sáheb's son had their first audience at the Darbár and presented each to Mádhavráv an elephant, horse and *sirpáv*, with a complete set of jewels, but stayed there but a very little time.

Saturday, 9th.—This morning sent people to enquire amongst the shroffs and mucadams of the pattamars and jassuds to find if possible to whom the letter was written regarding the peace concluded between the Nizám and Mahomed Alli Khán, but without success.

Sunday, 10th.—This morning received my superiors' commands of the 6th, as entered hereafter, in which they have been pleased to permit of my opening myself to the Maráthás first, when a proper opportunity offers, but with the necessary caution and reserve, which I shall not fail to do, but fear though it be done in the most cautious manner it will raise their expectations to a most intolerable pitch, considering agents are arrived from the Nizám and Hyder Alli on the same errand, and whose offers, I dare say, will far exceed anything I am empowered to make; and as Nágojiráv, Mahomed Alli Khán's agent, may also be expected upon the like business in a very few days, and Mádhavráv and Govind Shivrám have already told me they should not enter upon affairs in the Karnátak until his arrival, and Surjang and Chanda Sáheb's son not yet entered upon any business with the Darbár, I judge it will be most for my honourable employers' interest to wait a few days, but in the interim use my endeavours privately to induce Mádhavráv to open first. This at the same time it may be of service to Hon'ble Company's interest can be of no detriment to the business I am sent upon, because I am well assured it is not in Mádhavráv's power to take the field this year, first on account of his apprehensions and engagements to Rághoba, and secondly the low state of his finances to recruit, while he has sent his people and orders for the whole amount of the revenues of the different countries to be paid into his treasury without any deductions for maintaining a certain number of troops to attend him immediately on summons as usual, nor indeed can any business be done these three days on account of their fast of *Sankránt*:—



"To

THOMAS MOSTYN, Esquire.

SIR,—We have received your letter of the 25th ultimo and entirely approve your conduct in your negotiations till that time, flattering ourselves you will ere now have been able to bring Mádhavráv to declare his intentions as to the parts he proposes taking in the troubles now subsisting in the Karnátak. Though should he contrary to our hopes and expectations still have evaded opening himself on this subject, we would have you lose no favourable opportunity of bringing him to a declaration, as the season advances fast and renders it necessary for us to be at a certainty as to the conduct we are to observe in the present conjuncture.

The unfortunate affair of the "Defiance" which we learn was by some unhappy accident blown up the 15th of November in the gulf of Persia, with an entire company of infantry on board, renders it unavoidable our sending the "Revenge" to replace her, and a sufficient number of men to complete the force at first sent to Persia, by which means we shall not have more than four hundred European infantry, seventy-six artillery and eight hundred sepoys to leave for any service whatever, and this with our Marine force, the Major and Superintendent are of opinion, will be sufficient only for the reduction of Hyder Alli's forts and possessions upon this coast near the sea and the destruction of his fleet, which we notice for your guidance, but not to be made known to the Maráthás.

We approve of your intentions to keep Mr. Brome with Rághoba so long as you may be of opinion it will answer the end proposed; but you must be careful that it gives no disgust to Mádhavráv that may be prejudicial to the points you have in charge to treat on with him more particularly.

Since writing thus far we have received your letter of the 2nd instant, and as we thereby find you have no prospect of bringing the Maráthás to declare themselves, we must acquiesce in your speaking first whenever a suitable opportunity offers; but we shall rely on your doing it with the caution and reserve necessary in all transactions with these people, and on your pursuing every means in your power for inducing them to enter seriously into our views.

Bombay Castle,
6th January 1768. }

We are,
Your loving friends,
THOMAS HODGES.
DANIEL DRAPER.
JOHN GWIN.
JAMES RILEY.
RAWSON H. BODDAM.
BENJAMIN JERVIS.
JOHN WATSON."

Wednesday, 13th.—I have been informed that Siddi Yacoob Khán has written Mádhavráv that hitherto he has been in doubt whether he has assisted Siddi Abdul Rahiman against him; but the mask is now taken off, as Siddi Rahim has again come down and retaken Mudgur through the assistance of Visáji Pant; that if it is with his approbation, he desires Mádhavráv will immediately write him so that he may know which way to act.



Thursday, 14th.—The Darbár is so much engaged with settling their accounts with Mahádji Sindia and returning him again with the command of the troops in Hindustán that I have not yet, and fear shall not for some days, have it in my power to see any of the ministers, who are almost all day at the Darbár, and this has been given me for a reason two or three times by Govind Shivrám when I have sent to him for his not being able to see me. In short, these people will not go out of their accustomed road, and I find nothing but patience and assuring unconcern about matters will effect anything with him.

Friday, 15th.—This morning a pair of pattamars arrived from Hyder Alli's camp to Chanda Sáheb's son. From them I learn that the Nizám is at Bagulur Ghat near Assur fort, and that his brother Bussállat Jang, who was left with Hyder Alli, has likewise left him; Hyder Alli with his force is encamped at Káveripattan near fort Hallakoal, and the English and Mahomed Alli at Dollea, about three kos distance, with eighteen thousand horse and foot.

Sunday, 15th.—This morning Mahomed Alli Khán Hakim sent me word that Moro Pant, Rámchandra Jádhav and Agaji Surja had been to Madras on the part of Nizám Alli and had concluded a peace with Mahomed Alli Khán, but the terms he could not tell; and that the Nizám had ordered his Diván Ruccon-ud-Dowla and Bussállat Jang with their troops to leave Hyder Alli, and that they were, when the pattamars came away, thirty kos distance. This evening Mahádji Sindia received his *sirpáv* and audience of leave to return to Hindustán with the chief command.

Monday, 18th.—Yesterday Govind Shivrám and Mahomed Alli Khán acquainted me they were empowered by Mádhavrát to talk with me regarding the articles I some time ago laid before him. I therefore this morning went to Govind Shivrám's, where Mahomed Alli came. They opened the conversation with setting forth the long and antient friendship that had subsisted between the English and Mádhavrát's family, which he was desirous and willing should be continued inviolable, and that no trifling disputes that might possibly happen between the subjects of the two states should break it. They then opened the Orpár affair with assuring me, the Pandit, who was here, had alleged that we took the money by force, and that the boats were absolutely deserted by the lascars and on shore. I then produced to them the depositions taken on that occasion, as a convincing proof, that the lascars had not deserted them but were forced away by the Pandit's sepoys; nor were the boats wrecked, for in such case what was the necessity for the Pandit's ordering them to be broken, and one of them to be broken and one of them burnt, but to prevent a discovery; but were they even, as the Pandit says, wrecked, they had only a right to half, but which was by no means the case, for the boats were seized by the Pandit's people before the lascars belonging to them had left them. Govind Shivrám with some warmth replied it could not be. I told him we were convinced from the enquiries made it was so; that we could not oblige them to give an order, but he might be assured we should not suffer our merchants to be impeded in their business. He then softened and desired I would hear what the Pandit had to say, which I consented to.

Tuesday, 19th.—I was this morning informed that early yesterday morning the Rája of Bednur was carried prisoner to Chakan fort, about 18 kos distance, but brought back again in the evening.

Wenesday, 20th.—This morning Nágojirát, who arrived at Parvati two days ago, sent his compliments, acquainting me of his ill state of health, but hoped in a few days to be able to come into town, when he would wait on me, which I desired he would do before he went to the Darbár.



This afternoon Bhukandji Haridat, a principal Shroff, has brought me a letter of twenty-four days' date from his partner Bhukandji Kásidás at Madras, wherein it is mentioned that peace was concluded between the Sub'ha Nizám Alli Khán and Mahomed Alli Khán, the latter paying fifteen lákhs of rupees, for which Bhukandji Kásidás stood security. But the conditions were that the Nizám should immediately quit Hyder Alli and march with his forces over the Gháts to Kurpa Fort, which he performed and ordered his Diván Ruccon-ud-Dowla, whom he had before left with Hyder Alli, to join him. The letter further adds that our toops were in pursuit of Hyder Alli and had retaken the forts of Kaveripattan and Salam.

Thursday, 21st.—Judging it necessary to acquaint my superiors with the advices received yesterday, accordingly despatched the following address and sepoy express :—

“To

THE HON'BLE THOMAS HODGES, Esquire,

President and Governor and Council at Bombay.

HON'BLE SIR AND SIRs,—On the 10th your Honor and Council's commands of the 6th reached me, and this is purposely to acquaint you that a peace is absolutely concluded between the Nizám and Mahomed Alli Khán, the latter paying 15 lákhs of rupees; what other conditions I do not know, but so far is true if Shroff's letters can be credited, for Bhukandji Haridat, a principal shroff here, brought me a letter of twenty-five days' date from his partner at Madras, Bhukandji Kásidás, who stands Mahomed Alli Khán's security for the payment of the money. It futher says, the Nizám is at Kurpa, sixty kos from Arkot, and has ordered his Diván Ruccon-ud-Dowla, whom he before left with Hyder Alli with a considerable force, to join him; that we have retaken the forts of Kaveripattan and Salam and are still pursuing Hyder Alli.

Nágojiráv arrived at Parvati, though much indisposed; but has acquainted me he hopes to be able to come into town in a day or two. I have desired to see him before he goes to the Darbár, when your Honour and Council may depend I shall use with him every endeavour to induce Mádhavráv to think it his interest to enter into your measures, though I hope there will not now be that necessity of being very urgent with him, for I am convinced from the conversation I have had with him and some of his ministers, since the receipt of your commands of the 6th, my opening first, or letting them know in the least degree we are anxious for their joining us, will raise their terms to a most exorbitant height, and it must be something very material indeed that will prevail on Mádhavráv to take the field at all this year; for I am well assured, and from good authority, that he cannot without great inconvenience do it—first, on account of his apprehensions of, and engagements to, Rághoba, which he will not be able to discharge before Diváli; secondly, the low state of his finances, to recruit which he has sent his own writers with orders for the whole amount of revenues of the different countries to be paid into his treasury without any deductions for maintaining a certain number of troops to attend him as usual. It would therefore take him some time before he could have ready any body of men, which I apprehend would make it too late for us to effect anything material before the monsoon. However I shall not fail to continue my endeavours, which I can the more easily do through Nágojiráv, for, as the Darbár knows he is solely come on this account, he can speak plainer than it might be proper for me to do. For these reasons, and considering the time it would take for their forces to join us, the lateness of the season, and the promising aspect our affairs now wear in the Karnátak, I hope my having deferred opening myself may meet your Honor and Council's approval.

On the 17th Govind Shivrám and Mahomed Alli Khán Hakim acquainted me they were empowered by Mádhavráv to talk with me regarding the articles I some time ago laid before



him. I therefore the next morning went to Govind Shivrám. They began with the Orpár affair. The Pandit who is here I find has alleged that we took the money by force and that the boats were absolutely deserted. I told them *was it even so*, they had a right only to a half; but so far from it, that I had the evidence of many people, and some belonging to Orpár, to prove that they were never deserted, but the lascars were driven away by their sepoys. Govind Shivrám with some warmth replied it could not be. I told him we are fully satisfied it was so. After much altercation *pro and con*, finding he would not be convinced, I told him if they chose to give an order it was very well, I could not oblige them to it, but he might be assured we would not suffer our merchants to be impeded in their business. He then softened and desired I would hear what the Pandit had to say, to which I consented, but have not since heard anything more about it. However I am informed I shall to-morrow be sent for to the Darbár, when I hope to be able to settle the affair.

On the 11th I received a letter from Mr. Brome, at Násik, of the 6th, advising me that Rághoba was at Ujjeni, who had desired he would proceed to him there and that he should set out the next day.

I remain with great respect,

Poona, 21st January 1768.

Hon'ble Sir and Sirs,

Your most obedient humble Servant,

THOMAS MOSTYN."

Friday, 22nd.—This evening Mr. Brome returned from Násik and presented me the following letter giving an account of his proceeding there:—

"To

THOMAS MOSTYN, ESQUIRE,

At Poona.

SIR,—My last respects were dated the 20th ultimo, from Singwar, and agreeably to what I then wrote you, I set out from thence the same day and arrived at Násik the 3rd instant. As Rághoba was not returned from Trimbak, and Chinto Pant, his Diván, acquainting me it would be some days before he left that place, I thought it advisable that no time might be lost to despatch the Jumbledár with a letter to him, informing him of my arrival, and desired to know whether I should wait on him at that place, or when I might expect the pleasure of seeing him at Násik. In answer to the above Rághoba having requested I would proceed to Indragad (he having the day before removed from Trimbak to that place), I left Násik the 7th, and arrived at his camp the same evening. It was late the next day before I had my first audience, when having presented Rághoba with the Hon'ble the President's letter, your letter and the presents I had brought for him, I intimated that in consequence of his repeated requests in his late letters to the Hon'ble the President that a gentleman might be sent to him, my superiors have thought proper to send me to know his pleasure, and for what purposes he had made these repeated requests, imagining from his being so very pressing he had some business of consequence to impart. He said he had a due sense of my superiors' indulgence in complying with his requests, but as this was our first meeting he would defer entering on that subject until the next day; expressed much satisfaction at the present I had brought, and added he looked on it as a mark of that friendship which he hoped would always subsist between the English and him.

At our next meeting he opened the conversation by informing me of the late disputes between Mádhavráv and him, who, he said, for some time past had behaved very ungratefully notwithstanding the many obligations he laid under to him; that after Nána's death he had not only secured and placed him in quiet possession of his father's titles and country, reserving for himself only the title of guardian, which he, for his country's good, was led to take upon him, as his nephew was very young, but also looked on and esteemed him as his own child; that for some time past he had been treated with disrespect by him, his ministers and officers had been inveigled from him, and a conspiracy has even been set on foot to imprison him. These reasons had induced him to apply to the Hon'ble the President, to whom he had written very pressing that a gentleman might be sent to him, with whom he would concert measures for revenging his cause, hoping for assistance from the English, but as he had waited in expectation without receiving a favourable answer, he was obliged to accommodate matters in the best manner he could and put up with the affront for the present; that it was with pleasure at last he saw an English gentleman at his court with whom he could talk with freedom, and though the season was too far advanced for him to think of chastising his enemies before the ensuing rains, and consequently stood not in need of immediate assistance, yet he hoped to engage the English on his side, and receive help from them when he might take up arms, which after the rains he was fully resolved on; that his dependence was on them alone, and he earnestly entreated they would assist him with guns and ammunition, and join him with their force, in consideration of which he would come in to any reasonable proposals they might think proper to make here. I thought it a proper opportunity, in hopes of drawing some proposals from him, to ask what my masters were to expect in return should they think proper to give him assistance. He replied he would with pleasure pay ready money for what he might receive from them. I remarked to him that as my masters had neither guns nor ammunition for sale, nor ever made a practice of hiring out of their troops, I presumed they would expect some advantages exclusive of the bare pay of their troops, and the amount cost of such ammunition he might receive from their hands. He hesitated for some time and then asked me what they would be content with? To this question I replied that as he had not acquainted the Governor what business he had to impart to the gentleman he requested might be sent, my superiors had given me no instructions on this head, but as I had before hinted I presumed they would expect something adequate to the assistance he hoped to receive from them, so I took the liberty to recommend to him to draw out such proposals as he was willing to agree to, which on my return I would lay before them and he might depend on their answer. But this he evaded by telling me that when he was assured of assistance from my masters he would either make proposals or sign to such they might think proper to tender him, provided they were reasonable.

The other visits I had the honor to pay Rághoba either passed in repetitions of the above or in discourse tending thereto, when finding I could bring him to make no proposals after having waited on him a suitable time, I pressed him to despatch me, but he requesting I would accompany him to Trimbak for a few days, I complied therewith and employed this time in endeavouring to find out his present strength, and from what I was able to learn, he has at present in his pay only two thousand horse. This account I have reason to think is a true one, as in one of my visits at the Darbár, he himself told me he had, since the late accommodation with Mádhavráv, discharged the greatest part of his troops that it might appear to the world he was sincere, but should, as soon as he was sure of assistance from the English, collect them together again. Having heard of his being in possession of very considerable train of artillery I obtained permission to visit it, being of opinion a certain account thereof might be of some service to my employers. He has at this place one hundred and twenty guns and eight mortars mounted, of



different sizes, the guns from four to twelve pounders, and the mortars from, as near as I could guess, five and half to thirteen inches; but their carriages are in a most ruinous condition. He has other guns at Unandually, the place he usually resides at, but the number I cannot ascertain.

Thus, Sir, having remained with Rághoba as long as I thought I could consistently with my orders, I took my leave at the Darbár this day and purpose setting out for Poona to-morrow.

Accompanying you will be pleased to receive two letters from Rághoba—one for the Hon'ble the President, the other for yourself, also my account of expenses incurred by this journey.

I am, with due respect,

Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

CHARLES BROME."

Trimbak, 15th January 1768.

Monday, 25th.—Despatched the following address to my superiors at Bombay :—

" To

THE HON'BLE THOMAS HODGES, ESQUIRE,

President and Governor and Council at Bombay.

HON'BLE SIR AND SIRs,—My last respects waited on your Honor and Council the 21st instant, and since when Mr. Brome having returned from Násik this serves purposely to enclose a copy of his proceedings, by which you may please to observe, from what is therein set forth, the apprehension Mádhavráv is under from that quarter renders it almost impossible for him to undertake anything material this or even the next year.

Since my last conversation with Govind Shivrám, although I have been pressing in my requests to see Mádhavráv, the Darbár have been so much taken up as they say in despatching their officers to Hindustán (who this day set out) that I have yet not been able to accomplish this point.

Nágojiráv continues so much indisposed that I have not yet seen him.

I am, with the greatest respect,

Hon'ble Sir and Sirs,

Your most obedient humble Servant,

THOMAS MOSTYN."

Poona, 25th January 1768.

Wednesday, 27th.—After repeated entreaties Mádhavráv this evening sent for me, and the usual compliments being passed, Mádhavráv desired I would retire with Govind Shivrám and Rámáji Chitnis, who had his orders for settling with me the articles I some time ago presented him. They read over the 14 articles they had presented to Governor Crommelin, to which having separately answered, they with some difficulty consented to giving an order for the payment of the amount of losses our merchants had sustained as settled three years ago, but could not help looking on our detention of Angria's sons as an infringement of the treaty concluded the 14th September 1761, and should any of their officers, or even any of their own family fly to us (alluding to Rághoba's disaffection), we would in like manner give them protection. I assured them they might depend upon our abiding by our treaties, but we did not look on



Angria's children as coming under any one of the articles. They were delivered to them by us on condition they should be well treated, but on the contrary were so ill-used as to be obliged to fly from their protection, and lucky it was for them they again fell into our hands; for had they gone to any other power, from their connections and influence in the country, might have given them much trouble, from which they were now secured. They then set forth the loss they suffered by our vessels giving convoy to foreign boats, by which means they evaded taking their pass, also the detriment they suffered by our not permitting their *chowkis* about Surat to remain in the customary places. I told them I would lay their complaints before my superiors, who, they need not doubt, would give them all suitable satisfaction. We then returned to Mádhavráv, when, after sitting a convenient time, I took my leave.

February.

Monday, 1st.—Received letter from Nágojiráv at Parvati acquainting me that he had heard from good authority that by cassids, twenty-two days from Nizám Alli's camp, there is intelligence that as soon as the Nizám's troops had separated from Hyder Alli our forces with Mahomed Alli fell upon the latter and put them to the rout with considerable slaughter.

Saturday, 6th.—Have waited with impatience for the orders, and this morning sent to Govind Shivrám, who replied that, he and Rámáji Chitnis would go to the Darbár and procure Mádhavráv's leave for their being despatched.

Tuesday, 9th.—Nágojiráv still continuing so ill as not to be able to go abroad, and it being necessary I should be acquainted if he has any particular instructions from the President and Council at Madras (besides the memorandum my superiors have already sent me) and concerting measures for our acting jointly for the interest of my hon'ble employers, this morning I went to see him. I found he had received none but the memorandum. I then acquainted him with the advices from Madras by which he might observe the situation of affairs were greatly changed since he left that place; that we had in every engagement had the advantage over the joint forces of the Nizám and Hyder Alli, and since the Nizám had left Hyder Alli there was little to be apprehended from the latter alone, which were entirely the sentiments of the gentlemen at Madras; therefore the forming a junction with the Maráthás appeared the less necessary, more especially as the jealousies and disputes between Mádhavráv and his uncle Rághoba would to all present appearance prevent their joining Hyder Alli or giving us any material assistance, at least before the rains. I therefore advised him to defer entering upon business with the Darbár until we had some fresh advices from Bombay or Madras, for which his ill state of health would be a very good excuse.

In the evening received my superiors' commands of the 5th instant as follows:—

“To

THOMAS MOSTYN, Esquire.

SIR,—We have received your letter of the 25th ultimo, by which we perceive the probability there is of Mádhavráv not being able to undertake anything this or even the next year, which together with the season being far advanced, and the situation of affairs in the Karnátak has induced us to determine on setting on foot an expedition against Hyder Alli's fleet and possessions upon this coast. The necessary preparations for which are now making, and we hope our forces will leave this place in ten or twelve days; but in order to conceal our real design we have given out that it is against fort Augustus to compel the Ráni to make good that part of the ransom money now due. You will therefore make the necessary use of this hint in case any



question should be asked you at the Darbár, and we shall rely on your pursuing any measures which may appear to you proper and do not occur to us for promoting the success of our views, though it is now become improper to open yourself to the Maráthás, as you will have perceived by copy of the letter from Madras, dated the 12th December.

Should the operations upon the other coast and this so far distress Hyder Alli as to deprive him entirely of the Bednur dominions, in such case it would be of very material consequence to our Hon'ble Masters' affairs to have a proper person to set up in his stead, so far dependent on them as might entitle them to such privileges and advantages as may be necessary for their commercial interest in that country. A person of this sort we are much at loss to pitch upon, and wish you could point out any one, which you think could answer our views. The young Rája of Bednur now at Poona is one who might perhaps suit us very well, but then would not the entering into any engagements with him publish our intentions to the Maráthás, which we would by all means avoid. For the present of this we would have you give us your sentiments and the necessary information as to his age, capacity, and connections as soon as possible. After making all the enquiry in your power advise us whether any person occurs to you more proper for answering your views.

Bombay Castle, }
5th February 1768. }

We are,

Your loving friends,
THOMAS HODGES.
DANIEL DRAPER.
JOHN GWIN.
JAMES RYLEY.
RAWSON H. BODDAM.
BENJAMIN JERVIS.
NATHANIEL STACKHOUSE.
JOHN WATSON."

Thursday, 11th.—This evening Mádhavráv sent for me to the Darbár with an intent, I believe, to despatch me, but as I had not yet received any orders from Bombay, I acquainted Mádhavráv that Nágojiráv had brought a *sirpáv* for him from the Governor and Council at Madras, it was necessary I should assist in giving it, which his ill health had hitherto prevented. He set forth the long and ancient friendship that had subsisted between the Hon'ble Company and his family, and that it was his sincere desire to continue and strengthen it, and therefore expected and hoped the Hon'ble Company would not support or assist any of his enemies even though they were his relations. I assured him the Hon'ble Company were as desirous as himself to continue and be upon this most amicable footing with his Government and he might rest satisfied so long as he remained firm in his friendship with them they would not think of supporting or assisting either his relation or any one else against him. After some general conversation I took my leave.

Sunday, 14th.—Ever since the receipt of my superiors' commands of the 5th I have used my utmost endeavours to procure the best information possible regarding the young Rája of Bednur



and of the most proper person to set up in case of our succeeding in conquering that country, and having got such as I believe may be depended on, determined immediately to advise my superiors therewith, and accordingly despatched the following address:—

“To

THE HON'BLE THOMAS HODGES, Esquire,

President and Governor and Council at Bombay.

HON'BLE SIR AND SIRS,—Since my last address under the 25th ultimo I have been favoured with your Honor and Council's commands of the 28th ultimo and 5th instant with the papers mentioned to be enclosed.

It is with much pleasure I observe by the advices from Madras that it is now become unnecessary to form a junction with the Maráthás for the reasons I have already acquainted your Honor and Council with; and I have the further pleasure to advise you that, by a letter Nágojiráv lately received from an officer in Nizám Alli's camp, our forces have (since those advices) twice beat Hyder Alli, but the particulars he could not inform me with. And two days ago a report prevailed in town that he was surrounded by our troops; but by some letters received yesterday I was last night informed that a peace was concluded with him, though I cannot speak as to the truth of either of these; however a few days will clear it up.

I have agreeably to your Honor and Council's commands made the strictest enquiry possible with regard to the young Rája of Bednur, though I cannot say they have met with that success I could have wished for, owing to the Rája and all his attendants having been for some time past so closely confined under three *chankis*, that it is impossible to get any intelligence from them. However the following is I believe to be depended upon, having procured it from Nágojiráv, who is well acquainted with them. After the old Rája's death the Ráni adopted this young Rája, a distant relation, and crowned him in prejudice to one Ráma Rája, a near relation to the old Rája and who had a right to succeed, and was endeavouring to assist his pretensions when one of the Ráni's ministers, with whom she had it seems a familiar intimacy, laid a scheme for cutting him off. This he got notice of and feigned himself sick and caused a report to be spread he was dead and was actually carried out to be burnt, which opportunity he took to get away and fled to the Rája of Chitaldurg (the only powerful person near the Bednur country and able to raise twelve thousand gun-men), who gave him protection and promised to assist him in gaining his right. In the meantime Hyder Alli went against the Bednur country and promised the Rája of Chitaldurg if he would deliver up Ráma Rája he would place him in the Rájaship as the proper successor, but after having conquered the whole country in his name he confined him. During this confusion the Ráni and the adopted Rája fled to Currial fort, but were soon after taken and confined also. Two years ago when Mádhavráv went against Hyder Alli and took the forts of Mudgerry, Seray, &c., on making up matters he insisted on the delivery of these two up to him and was bringing them to Poona, but on the road the Ráni died. Ráma Rája was also with Mádhavráv, but apprehending he was only released from one prison to be put into another, found means to escape and took Nizám Alli's protection, with whom he now is. The young Rája is about sixteen or seventeen years old, a sprightly, sensible young man I am informed, and has with him a brother about fifty years of age, under whose tuition he is. These two are the only persons I can point out to your Honor and Council as proper to be set up, and it is most likely they would be most acceptable, and not only would greatly facilitate its reduction, but its internal peace afterwards, and be also least disgustful to the neighbouring powers as being the right-



ful successors. Should your Honor and Council prefer Ráma Rája, Nágojiráv informs me, should we have any thoughts of reducing that country, for I have not let him into the secret, he believes he can, through the means of one Venkáji Pant (a substantial merchant formerly residing in the Bednur country but now living at Gadag), manage the business and even bring the Rája to Bombay. But should you choose the young one that was really crowned after we have possession of part of the country, no objection occurs to me at present, why he should not be openly demanded of the Maráthás, nor do I think they can be disgusted at it, provided we are guaranteed for payment of their *chauth* without trouble; but of this your Honor and Council will be the best judges. I have only, agreeably to your directions, given my sentiments and sincerely wish they may prove satisfactory.

I have finished every thing with the Darbár regarding the articles I delivered them, but have not received the orders, nor shall until I am despatched, which I imagine will be in a very few days, as they have twice hinted their intentions to me, and which I have as often evaded by telling them that as Nágojiráv had brought a present from Madras for Mádhavráv it was necessary I should assist in presenting it which his ill state of health had hitherto prevented; but a frequent repetition of this will, I fear, cause a jealousy and make them believe I have other motives for staying than merely to make the present, and after I am despatched I cannot with propriety stay above a day or two.

Poona,

14th February 1768. }

I remain, with much respect,

Hon'ble Sir and Sirs,

Your most obedient humble Servant,

THOMAS MOSTYN."

Friday, 19th.—This afternoon Mádhavráv sent his compliments and desired to see me at the Darbár, where, after sitting a little time, he asked me the reason of the armament preparing at Bombay and whither destined, and if I had any letters regarding it from the Governor and Council of Bombay. I told him I had, and that they were going down to Málvan and Ráiri to demand payment of the ransom money due. I then asked him for the several orders, which he directed should be immediately drawn out and acquainted me he purposed despatching me in a few days.

Saturday, 20th.—Náropant, the person that has attended me and supplied my people with provisions, &c., having leave from the Darbár to return to his family, made him a present of a piece of kincob and three yards of scarlet cloth for his trouble.

Sunday, 21st.—This evening arrived a pair of pattamars with the following letter from my superiors at Bombay:—

"To

THOMAS MOSTYN, ESQUIRE.

SIR—We wrote you last the 5th instant, and agreeably to what we therein advised, such a military and marine force as could be spared left this place yesterday under the command of Messrs. Gwin and Watson for the purpose you have already been apprised of. This, therefore, is chiefly to direct you to signify our intentions in general terms to the Marátha Government; and reports prevail here that they have sent a force to the southward. You at the same time to acquaint them that we expect they will not interfere or in any shape attempt to obstruct us in our operations, and that they give directions to their officers accordingly. If, however, they choose



to act in conjunction with us, Messrs. Gwin, Watson and Sibbald (who are appointed a committee for negotiating affairs on the expedition) will listen to any reasonable proposals they may make them, calculated for the reduction of Hyder Alli.

Bombay Castle, }
18th February 1768. }

We are,
Your loving friends,
THOMAS HODGES.
DANIEL DRAPER.
JAMES RYLEY.
BENJAMIN JERVIS.
BRICE FLETCHER."

Agreeably to the above commands I sent Rámáji Parvoe to Govind Shivrám to acquaint him with the contents that he might advise Mádhavrát, to whom but very few had admittance owing to his being in mourning of his grandfather.

Monday, 22nd.—About three o'clock this afternoon I was sent for to the Darbár, where I found Mádhavrát, Sakarám Bápu, Nána Fadanavis, Govind Shivrám, Moroba Fadanavis and Mahomed Alli Khán. After the usual compliments of condolence had passed, Mádhavrát asked me what advices I had received from the Governor and Council. I told him they had directed me to acquaint him that the armament they purposed sending to Málvan and Ráiri they had now determined should proceed against Hyder Alli's possessions on this coast, and they expected, as he had a considerable force that way under Gopálrát, he would give such orders as he in no shape interfered or impeded our operations. If, however, they chose to act in conjunction with us, Messrs. Gwin, Watson and Sibbald, who were down there, had directions to listen to any reasonable proposals they had to make them, calculated for the reduction of Hyder Alli. They seemed to be thunderstruck, and expressed their surprise at our attacking Hyder Alli, with whom they imagined we at Bombay were in perfect peace, at least without apprising them first of it; besides they understood this force was going down to Málvan. I replied that at first it was intended against Málvan, but imagined some late advices had caused the Governor and Council to take this sudden resolution, and as soon as we were determined upon it, they out of the friendship and harmony subsisting between us were made acquainted about it. Mádhavrát said, he had no objections to our punishing Hyder Alli; but as he laid claim to the whole of the countries of Bednur and Sounda, not only on account of their being already in possession of part and intentions of taking the whole as opportunity offered, but the Rája of the former being under his protection, therefore he in the most formal manner objected to our taking the forts, or destroying the country; but in case we did take any part of the country, it should be given up to him. With this he desired I would acquaint my superiors. I told him I should not fail of advising the Governor and Council with his formal demand, but believed they were quite unacquainted with any just pretensions he might have to either the Bednur or Sounda countries, nor I imagined would allow of it. But I requested to know, as he had no objections to our punishing Hyder Alli, how we were to do it without taking his forts and country. He replied that we should act jointly. I told him it was what we were desirous of, and therefore had given the officers commanding our forces down there, orders to hear any reasonable proposals and concert the necessary measures for it. He said that would take up a great deal of time. I therefore advised him, as the speediest method, to send a proper person to Bombay, when things might be quickly adjusted. He said they would consider of what I had told them and how they should act, when I took my leave.



Tuesday, 23rd.—This evening I was again sent for to the Darbár, but nothing further was done than a recapitulation of what had passed yesterday.

Wednesday, 24th.—This afternoon received my superiors' command of the 20th, as follows:—

“To

THOMAS MOSTYN, Esquire.

SIR,—The accompanying is a duplicate of our last, and yesterday we received yours of the 14th, in consequence of which you may return hither as soon as you think proper; but as Mr. Brome's staying at Poona, to communicate from time to time what may occur, we are of opinion, will be of use, we would have you leave him there till further orders, which we hope may be done without giving offence to the Marátha Government.

The leopard and lioness you mentioned to the President that would be acceptable to Mádhavráv are now sent you.

We are,

Bombay Castle, }
20th February 1768. }

Your loving friends,
THOMAS HODGES.
DANIEL DRAPER.
JAMES RYLEY.
BENJAMIN JERVIS.”

Thursday, 25th.—This evening Mádhavráv, in order to despatch me again, sent for me, and after setting forth the whole of what passed the 22nd, acquainted me they had fully considered everything and had fixed on Rámáji Chitnis as the person to go to Bombay, and he would set out as soon as their Holi holidays were over. He then told me several complaints had been made to him regarding Angria's sons employing people to plunder the inhabitants of his country, as a proof of which he had some days ago ordered four persons, inhabitants of Bombay, who had been caught, to be delivered up to me, and hoped and expected care would be taken to prevent the like in future, otherwise it would cause a coolness in the friendship at present subsisting between us. I replied, he may rest assured the prisoners he had delivered to me would be punished agreeably to their deserts, for he could not imagine that we would consent to anything of this sort. As they had determined on sending a person to Bombay, I judged my proposing to leave Mr. Brome there agreeably to my superiors' orders might induce them to alter their resolution and prevent their sending any one; however paid them the compliment of his remaining to accompany Rámáji Chitnis to Bombay, but which they politely excused. After sitting some little time and Mádhavráv acquainting me all the orders (excepting the one relating to the Orpár affairs, about which Rámáji Chitnis would have directions) should be sent me and recommending Rámáji might be kindly treated, presented me with a horse and *sirpáv*, on which I took my leave.

Friday, 26th.—This morning wrote my superiors the following address to acquaint them of my proceedings and being despatched:—

“To

THE HON'BLE THOMAS HODGES, Esquire,

President and Governor and Council at Bombay.

HON'BLE SIR AND SIRs,—I have been favoured with your Honor and Council's commands of the 18th and 20th instant. Before the receipt of the former the Darbár had enquired of me



the reason of the armament preparing at Bombay and where destined. I informed them against Málvan and Ráiri to recover the money due to us; but on my acquainting them with your resolution of their proceeding against Hyder Alli's possessions, and that you expected they would give such orders to Gopálrav, their officer commanding in those parts, that he in no shape impedes our operations, but, however, if they chose to act in conjunction with us, Messrs. Gwin, Watson and Sibbald had directions for hearkening to any reasonable proposals they had to make, it threw the whole Darbár into the utmost consternation, and I have almost every day since been sent for there. The substance of our conversation has run entirely on their laying claim to the whole of the Bednur and Sounda countries, both on account of their being in possession of part already and intentions of taking the whole as opportunities offer, and the Rája of the former being under their protection. This they have done in the most formal manner, and desired I would acquaint your Honor and Council with it. I told them I believed you were quite unacquainted with any pretensions they might have to those countries, but advised them (as they talked at this extraordinary rate) if they had any thoughts of acting in conjunction with us, either to send orders to Gopálrav to treat with our officers, or, which I thought the most effectual method, send a proper person to Bombay. The last they have agreed to, and last night when they despatched me, informed me they had appointed Rámáji Chitnis, who would proceed as soon as the Holi was over. On their coming to this resolution I judged my proposing Mr. Brome's staying here might be improper and prevent their sending any one; however paid them the compliment of his remaining to accompany him to Bombay, which they politely excused. Mr. Brome will therefore accompany me, which I hope your Honor and Council will not disapprove.

Having procured all the orders regarding the articles I presented to the Darbár, except the one relating to the Orpár affair, which Rámáji Chitnis will bring instructions about, I purpose, agreeably to your Honor and Council's permission, to leave Poona to-morrow. The lioness and leopard, as soon as they arrive, shall be presented to Mádhavráv.

I remain, very respectfully,

Hon'ble Sir and Sirs,

Poona, 26th February 1768.

Your most obedient humble Servant,

THOMAS MOSTYN."

Saturday, 27th.—Having received all the orders agreeably to Mádhavráv's promise, this afternoon at 3 o'clock set out from Poona and arrived at Bombay on Wednesday, the 3rd March. On my arrival wrote my superiors the following letter, enclosing the several orders:—

"To

THE HON'BLE THOMAS HODGES, ESQUIRE,

President and Governor and Council at Bombay.

HON'BLE SIR AND SIRS,—My last respects of the 26th ultimo advised your Honor and Council of my having received my despatches from the Darbár, and agreeably to your permission in your commands of the 20th left Poona the 27th.

Mádhavráv some time before my departure delivered to me four prisoners which his sepoy had taken pilfering in the Marátha country, and as they confessed were employed by Angria's sons now in your possession, he hoped and expected that proper care would be taken to prevent the like in future, otherwise it might cause a coolness in the good harmony and friendship now subsisting between the two states.



Enclosed your Honor and Council will please to receive the six following orders relating to the points I laid before the Darbár, the one regarding Orpár, as I before advised you, I was not able to procure, but Rámáji Chitnis will have directions about it, and Mádhavráv assured me our merchants at Surat should meet with no impediments :—

One order on Visáji Pant for the payment of Rupees thirty thousand nine hundred and fifteen three-quarters and fifty reas, being the amount of losses sustained by our merchants as settled three years ago.

One ditto on Visáji Pant for delivering to Nasarvánji Modi his batela taken three years ago.

One ditto on Visáji Pant for delivering to Byránji Hormasji a boat of 200 khándis in lieu of his grab taken about seven years ago.

One ditto on Rámáji Pant for rendering up some slaves fled to Sálsette belonging to Mr. Richard Nowland.

One ditto on Moroji Sindia of Chaul for two slaves fled thither belonging to the above gentleman.

One ditto on Wásudev Pant, Governor of Karanja, for removing the fishing stakes fixed by their Kolis within the Bombay limits.

Bombay, 3rd March 1768.



I am,
Hon'ble Sir and Sirs,
Your most obedient humble Servant,
THOMAS MOSTYN."



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At a Consultation held on the 12th December 1774, present :

The Hon'ble WILLIAM HORNBY, Esq., President and Governor.

W. M. DANIEL DRAPER.

THOMAS MOSTYN.

BRICE FLETCHER.

ROBERT GORDON.

JOHN WATSON.

WILLIAM TAYLOR.

Read and approved our proceedings under the 6th of December 1774, being our last consultation.

Mr. Thomas Mostyn, having returned from Poona the 9th instant, now takes his place in his standing.

The President, with the concurrence of the other members of the Select Committee acquaints the Board with the proceedings relative to the intended design against the island of Salsette ; their motives for which are now explained to the Board, and the papers with their minutes respecting this affair are all read, and the Board are informed that the forces intended for this service are now ready to proceed. The orders of the Hon'ble the Court of Directors, dated the 4th of April 1769, constituting the Select Committee and showing the powers they are invested with, are also read together with the forty-second and forty-third paragraphs of the Company's commands of the 31st of March 1769, and the President then requests the concurrence of the other members in this undertaking which is so much for the interest of the Hon'ble Company and so agreeable to their repeated orders on the subject.

Messrs. Fletcher and Gordon whereupon desire, it may be minuted, that as they are not members of the Select Committee and have not an opportunity of inspecting the country correspondence, they are not sufficiently acquainted with the policy of the Marátha Government to be enabled properly to judge of the propriety or impropriety of the resolutions that have been taken, though they doubt not but that the Committee have been guided by what appears to them for the real interest of the Hon'ble Company. As it is a matter, however, of important nature, they beg leave to declare they do not esteem themselves in the least responsible for the consequences.

The instructions to Brigadier-General Gordon and to Mr. Watson proceeding on the service against Thána in command of the military and marine forces are now read and approved as entered in the diary of the Select Committee under this date.

W. HORNBY.

D. DRAPER.

T. MOSTYN.

B. FLETCHER.

Bombay Castle, Monday, 12th December 1774.

By 10 o'clock this morning that part of the military force intended to proceed by land to Thána marched out of town commanded by Brigadier-General Gordon.



At 7 P.M. the remainder of the military force intended to proceed to Thána embarked on board sundry boats, and proceeded with the following vessels and gallivats to Thána:—Bomb, “Terrible”, “Adam”, “Sheriff”, Prahm “Triumph”, “In. Hall”, “Spy”, Outter “Samuel”, “Hardy”, Gallivat “Otter”, “Thomas Buncombe”, “Greyhound”, Gallivat “Lieutenant Bordace”, Gallivat “Lively’s Prize”, “Nathaniel Smith”, “Fly”, Gallivats “Skinner” and “Wolf”, “Brice” and “Hardy”.

John Watson, Esq., Superintendent, embarked on one of the above vessels and proceeded as Commander of the Marine Force to Thána with instructions to the Brigadier-General and himself to consult and co-operate with each other for the good of the service.

Bombay Castle, Friday, 16th December 1774.

A letter was delivered from the Commander of the Portuguese ships now lying off the harbour, of which the following is a translate:—

“TO SENHOR GOVERNOR GENERAL AND THE GENTLEMEN OF COUNCIL IN BOMBAY.

Notwithstanding the most Illustrious and Excellent Senhor Don Jose Pedro da Camara, Governor and Captain General of the State of India, supposing that the British nation will regulate all their operations in Asia according to the good harmony, alliance, and amity that reciprocally subsist between those two nations, yet by the obligations of the employ in which he is and from some events that are diametrically opposite thereto, the said Captain General ordered me that I should on his part and in his name protest to your Honor and Council against whatever proceedings, contracts, expedition, and whatever other negotiation and conquest you may intend on the country which, on this coast of Hindustán, situated from Chaul to Daman, uniting to this protest all others which his predecessors have made on the same subject, making an especial mention of each of them, more particularly that which the Viceroy and Captain General Conde da Ega sent to the Council of Bombay. Recollecting this present protest of all the clauses therein contained, charging your Honor and Council with your being responsible for all that you will deliberate against the present protest, and with your being herein mentioned to the Court of London and for all the satisfaction that may hereafter be asked on these points by that of Lisbon.

On board the chief ship ‘N. Sur Mandre de Des’, anchored at Common Channel of Bombay and the island of Karanja, 16th December 1774.”

Bombay Castle, 18th December 1774.

The following letter in reply to that from the Commandant of the Portuguese ships being drawn up and approved was signed and delivered to him:—

“TO SENHOR JOZE SANDIOS DE BRITTO, COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF
THE PORTUGUESE SHIPS NOW LYING AT ANCHOR OFF THE HARBOUR OF BOMBAY.

SIR,—We have received a letter from you, dated the 16th December 1774, which we deem it necessary only to reply that for all our proceedings we are responsible to our hon’ble employers in England, to whom, as customary, we shall transmit an ample detail of our transactions, and as it is our wish and desire to cultivate a good understanding with the subjects of your nation in India, we request you will give the necessary assurances accordingly to the Captain General on your return to Goa.

As to the claims of your nation to the countries situated between Chaul and Daman, we are perfectly unacquainted with them. Though part of those countries did formerly belong



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to your nation, yet they were taken from you by the Maráthás about seven and thirty years ago. During all the intervening time we have never understood that you even made any attempt to recover them; but if a protest is now necessary, it will be much more proper against the Maráthás, who took them from you, than against us who assisted your nation at that time to defend your possessions with men, stores and ammunition. By this a great expense was endured, for which the Hon'ble Company have never been reimbursed. We therefore take this opportunity through you again to demand payment from the Captain General at Goa.

And as a vessel belonging to Dhanjisha of Surat, a servant and subject of the Hon'ble English East India Company, was unjustly taken about three years ago and still more unjustly detained by the late Captain General notwithstanding our representations to the contrary, we also through you demand the release of the said vessel, and that the value of everything taken on board her be made good to the owner.

We are,

Your humble Servants,

W. HORNBY,

Governor, and Council.

Bombay Castle, 18th December 1774.

Bombay Castle, 20th December 1774.

As large a detachment as could possibly be spared from this garrison marched off this evening under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel Keating to reduce Versova, a strong fort and outpost on the island of Sálsette on the opposite side of the island from Tháua.

Bombay Castle, Sunday, 25th December 1774.

At 2 P.M. arrived Lieutenant McNeil from the detachment commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel Keating with the news of the surrender of Versova Fort. The particulars of his proceedings and of the capture of the place are comprised in the following six letters from Lieutenant-Colonel Keating to the President:—

"HON'BLE SIR,—I am sorry to acquaint you that our attempt to escalate Versova last night at 8 o'clock has not been attended with success owing totally to the want of proper ladders and regularity in our troops—the former, as I feared, were scarce long enough to reach the top of the wall, the latter by no means obedient to command. I planned the attack in the following manner: Lieutenant Carpenter with forty-six men did, upon our howitzer field pieces beginning to play on the fort, advance close to the walls upon the left, keeping up a constant firing. By firing in this way he drew off the whole attention of the enemy to that quarter, while Ensign Prosser, Anderson and Gore, who had their orders, advanced with distinct commands each to the escalate of the only part that our ladders could reach. The first had its desired effect, as the enemy never made the least discovery until our ladders were raising. But this was done so clumsily that those that were raised, the enemy, though still very few in that quarter, easily broke and upset them with large stones, and our troops were obliged to give over the attack with the loss only of two Europeans killed, two or three wounded, and three lascars wounded. Had I fourteen bamboo ladders now, eight of thirty-two and six of forty feet long, I could still carry the place; but as making these, I fear, will take up much time, two 18-pounders or even 12-pounders with



two cohorn mortars, with the stores contained in the accompanying list, will reduce the place soon. The garrison are exceedingly intimidated, and have kept up a constant fire ever since we retired, fearing a second attack. Mr. Pemberton will deliver you this and describe our situation.

I have, &c.,
THOMAS KEATING.

Before Versova, 4 o'clock, 23rd December 1774.

"HON'BLE SIR,—I beg you will order 2 petards to be sent immediately. Whichever choice you make in respect to what was contained in mine of this morning may be sent also, but I hope with the help of petards to get in.

I am, with respect,

Hon'ble Sir,

Your obliged and obedient Servant,

THOMAS KEATING.

Before Versova, 23rd December 1774.

"HON'BLE SIR,—Nothing can be done but by two 18-pounders—12-pounders might do as well,—but for the sake of expedition I this evening made a second attempt to carry the fort by escalade, but met with so very warm a reception, that our people were obliged to retire with the loss of many wounded and killed—how many I cannot exactly say, perhaps thirty. Ensign Anderson is wounded badly. I have pleasure in assuring you that the troops have made ample amends for their want of regularity last night. This night they are perfectly obedient to command. Had it been so last night we should have carried it easily. To-night the enemy were fully prepared. The particulars I shall acquaint you of to-morrow, and write now chiefly to request the guns, stores, &c., mentioned in my letter of this morning, may be sent as soon as possible.

I have the honor to remain,

Hon'ble Sir,

Your very obliged and obedient Servant,

THOMAS KEATING.

Half past 10 o'clock, 23rd December 1774.

"HON'BLE SIR,—Our loss last night was not so considerable as I imagined, and is as follows :—

Killed.—Infantry one, seaman one, hamáls two.

Wounded.—Artillery eight, infantry six, seamen three, lascars two, and hamáls two.

I mentioned in my indent a sling cart, which is not sent. I hope I shall do without it, though the road is extremely rough. The following stores are wanted :—

Grape for 5½" howitzers	...	...	...	...	50
Shells for do.	...	...	...	...	154
Fuses for do.	...	...	...	...	170
6-pounder grape	...	...	...	...	150

6-Pounder wads	...	...	...	...	300
6-pounder empty cartridges	...	...	...	...	150
6-pounder tubes	...	...	...	...	150

I have the honor to remain, with respect,

Hon'ble Sir,

Your very obliged Servant,

THOMAS KEATING.

Before Versova, 24th December 1774.

"HON'BLE SIR,—I this moment was honored with yours of 10th this morning. When I wrote you last night, many of our wounded were not brought; so I concluded them killed, but was agreeably disappointed on finding them not even very badly wounded. A list I sent you this day at half past 2 o'clock. Most of our stores are landed and brought up. I am at work for the battery, and should I receive a party from Captain Liell to assist in raising it, to whom I have sent for that purpose, being so weak, shall be able to open it to-morrow morning; otherwise not, I fear, before Monday morning. When once open I think we shall soon do our business. Should not have made an attack last night but that I found the men in high spirits, and eager for it together with the confidence I placed in the bravery and coolness of Lieutenant Brickell who commanded the party who were first to mount. He did not deceive me though unsuccessful. Our ladders I increased in length to forty-two feet. The petard I found unnecessary; the gate did not require one. Had we got into the work where it was, a maul would have served, and I got one. I thank God I never was better in health. What men the Surgeon thinks require it I now send to the Sepoy Hospital; a list of them enclosed. Wishing you the compliments of the ensuing season,

I remain, with great respect,

Hon'ble Sir,

Your ever obliged,

THOMAS KEATING.

5 o'clock, 24th December 1774.

"HON'BLE SIR,—Just as the battery was ready to fire at sunrise the enemy sent out a deputation to treat. They had done the same last night, but first wanted five days to consult upon the conditions they wished to have. My answer was, I allowed them one hour and a half, no more. They returned at the time and reduced their demand, first to three days, at last fell to this day at noon. My answer was that I would not allow an hour longer, as it was my business to reduce the fort as soon as possible, theirs to keep it as long as they could. This did not seem to please them. Our battery being finished, and as I suppose not further from the walls than two hundred and twenty yards, has determined them to accept of the terms, a copy of which I now do myself the honor to enclose you, and hope they will prove satisfactory. I despatch this by Lieutenant McNiel, and remain, with the utmost respect,

Hon'ble Sir,

Your ever obedient Servant,

THOMAS KEATING.

Versova, 25th December 1774, 10 o'clock in the morning."

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Articles of surrender of Versova Force to the Company's Forces.

I, Thomas Keating, Lieutenant-Colonel and Commanding Officer of a body of the Hon'ble Company's forces now before the fort of Versova, do promise and agree that upon the surrender of the said fort for the use of my Hon'ble Masters that the officers and inhabitants in the said fort shall enjoy whatever private property of their own there is now in the fort or town; that they shall be permitted to stay in the villages adjacent or retire elsewhere, provided they do not molest in any degree any inhabitants under the protection of the Hon'ble Company; also that they shall have ten fishing boats to carry away themselves and their real property; and, lastly, it is faithfully promised that the Killedár and all others shall furnish to Lieutenant-Colonel Keating a just and true account of whatever is belonging to the Marátha Government now under their care or charge, and deliver the same to such persons as he shall appoint for that purpose.—Done before Versova this 25th day of December 1774.

Bombay Castle, Monday, 26th December 1774.

The whole detachment commanded by Lieut.-Colonel Keating returned, except such part as was left to garrison the fort at Versova.

At a Consultation held on the 27th December 1774, present:

The Hon'ble WILLIAM HORNEY, Esq., President and Governor.

W. DANIEL DRAPER.

THOMAS MOSTYN.

BRICE FLETCHER.

WILLIAM TAYLOR.

ROBERT GORDON.

Read and approved our proceedings under the 26th December 1774, being our last consultation.

The President lays before the Board all the letters he has received from the Brigadier-General and Mr. Watson containing an account of the proceedings of the forces before Thána, at the same time acquainting the Board that every supply of stores, guns or ammunition desired by the Brigadier-General for the service was immediately sent him, and, further, as the General in his last letter mentions the want of officers, he this morning sent one captain and four subalterns with fifty-five non-commissioned officers and private men, which is approved; and it is ordered that these letters be entered after this consultation.

We observe by the letters written by Mr. Watson to the President previous to his receiving the unhappy blow which at present disables him from service, that he strongly recommended to the Brigadier-General to attack the two small forts situated a little to the northward of Thána, called Himat and Fatte Buruj, and to destroy the gallivats in the river, his reasons for which are so strong and convincing, and by Mr. Watson's account it appears this service might be so easily effected, that we cannot avoid expressing our surprise at the Brigadier-General not concurring in Mr. Watson's proposition. For it is evident that by having those forts in our possession the enemy's receiving any supplies would be effectually prevented, whereas it seems they are at present supplied with what men and stores they stand in need of, which must certainly prolong the siege, if not prevent our success; and we deem it here not foreign to remark that the success which lately attended the party sent against Versova Fort under

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Lieutenant-Colonel Keating, as already minuted on the 25th instant, appeared to be strictly owing to that officer having taken effectual means to cut off all supplies from being received into that fort, together with the two spirited assaults he made upon it.

As the reading of the above papers and the conversation on them has taken much time, and it is now late, it is agreed to adjourn, and to meet again this evening, by which time it is hoped we shall receive some further intelligence from Thána.

Adjourned.

GEORGE SKIPP,
Secretary.

W. HORNBY.
D. DRAPER.
T. MOSTYN.
B. FLETCHER.

Bombay Castle, 27th December 1774.

At three P.M. John Watson, Esq., departed this life, occasioned by the wounds he received before Thána on the 21st instant.

At a Consultation held on the 27th December 1774, at 6 P.M., present :

The Hon'ble WILLIAM HORNBY, Esq., President and Governor.	
W. DANIEL DRAPER.	THOMAS MOSTYN.
BRIGE FLETCHER.	WILLIAM TAYLOR.
ROBERT GORDON.	

Met to resume the consideration of the present situation of our forces before Thána, when the President lays before us a letter he has just received from the Brigadier-General, dated at half-past 11 o'clock this morning, wherein he says that he is fully sensible of the importance of cutting off all succour from the enemy, but pleads the want of a sufficient force to effect it, though we must observe that there has seldom been a superior force than what is now before Thána at the attack of any of the many places that have been carried by the Company's forces in India, and often not nearly equal to it. However as it is now become absolutely necessary to prevent the enemy from receiving succour any longer, which cannot otherwise be effected than by gaining possession of the two small forts to the northward of Thána, it is therefore taken under consideration in what manner to effect it.

Lieutenant-Colonel Keating, who is at present commanding officer in this garrison, is sent for that we may have his sentiments on the present situation of affairs at Thána, as well as to know what further force can possibly be spared from hence.

The Lieutenant-Colonel having come accordingly, he is made acquainted with every thing proper, and asked his opinion upon the whole, when he declares that the necessity of taking the two small forts in question is so obvious to him ; that he thinks a point ought to be strained to effect it ; and if the Bhandári Militia is called in to do the garrison duty, we may spare two hundred and fifty infantry, artillery and sepoy, which, with the number sent off this morning to join the forces at Thána, will make full three hundred men, which, he concurs with the late Mr. Watson in opinion, will be sufficient for the purpose ; and this force he offers his services to command and to proceed to the attack of the two forts in question. Lieutenant-Colonel Keating then withdrew.

Upon mature consideration of the foregoing it is resolved to detach two hundred and fifty men from hence under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel Keating for the purpose of effecting the reduction of these two forts only, of which the Brigadier-General must be acquainted, and



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ordered to put the reinforcement sent him this morning under Colonel Keating's orders, and to afford this officer and his detachment every support and assistance Colonel Keating may request of him.

When this service is effected, Colonel Keating with the whole detachment he carries from hence must return, as nothing but the unavoidable necessity of the measure can justify our sending at present this number of men from the garrison.

The two forts when taken are to be delivered to the General's charge, and Colonel Keating must take a survey of the works before Thána and of the fort, if not then in our possession, that he may be able to give us the requisite information regarding both on his return.

Messrs. Fletcher and Gordon think it proper here to remark that though they acquiesce in sending Colonel Keating with the body of men agreed on as above, yet they do not mean thereby to make themselves in the least responsible for this business; but as the expedition against Sálsette was undertaken by the Select Committee which composed a majority of the Board and it is actually set on foot, they think themselves in duty to the Company bound to render every service in their power towards bringing it to a happy conclusion, and in this light they shall continue to give their advice and opinion in any matters relative to this business that may come before the Board.

The Secretary presents to the Board the foul draft of the letter to the Governor-General and Council at Fort William, which is approved and ordered to be fair transcribed.

Adjourned.

WILLIAM HORNBY.
D. DRAPER.
T. MOSTYN.
B. FLETCHER.

Letters from Brigadier-General GORDON to the PRESIDENT.

HON'BLE SIR,—After a most fatiguing and long march in the heat of the day through very rugged ground we arrived in the neighbourhood of this place about three o'clock in the afternoon. The troops were very much depressed by the heat, yet I judge it necessary to push on and take possession of the town. The troops proceeded with the utmost alacrity through a hot fire of the enemy, both of great guns and musketry, which they took no manner of notice of, or even returned one shot till they got possession of the town and Darbár. We are now lodged in the Portuguese church. We have also got possession of the principal houses of the town. The distance from Sion to this place has been very much misrepresented, and the difficulties in the course of the march have been inconceivable. Neither Mr. Watson nor any of the troops are as yet arrived. The officers and men being greatly fatigued we have just taken the necessary measures to secure our posts for the night, as nothing essential can be done till our battering cannon and intrenching tools arrive. The Drum Major of the first battalion, a Grenadier, and two sepoys are wounded.

I am,

Hon'ble Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,
ROBERT GORDON.

Thána, 4 o'clock, afternoon, }
13th December 1774. }

HON'BLE SIR,—About 5 o'clock yesterday afternoon I despatched a pattamár to you to acquaint you of our proceedings. Since which Mr. Watson and Colonel Egerton with the rest of the troops are arrived, and part of our stores are already in our possession. Upon our approach to the town of Thána we found all the inhabitants had deserted their houses and fled, having been summoned to the fort by the Killedár the day we marched from Bombay. All the Portuguese and some Gentoos, &c., are gone to the mountains. We issued placards in the villages through which we passed, and have sent people with them in quest of those who are fled, that they may be acquainted as soon as possible with the protection that will be afforded them. The enemy kept up a pretty smart fire all last night, but with little success. Enclosed is a list of the killed and wounded. By the different posts which we have taken possession of, all communication with the posts to the southward is cut off. The passage to Kalva is now under the fire of our musketry, and as soon as the night sets in, a battery of the enemy's, of which we have taken possession, will, by the addition of an epaulement, have the entire command of this passage. The other avenues of the town are blocked up. The enemy made two sallies opposite to the Darbár last night where Captain Stuart is posted, but they were instantly repulsed by our post which are advanced under cover to the edge of the esplanade. Mr. Watson is returned to the landing place, which is at a considerable distance from the town, to land the rest of our stores. When he left me, that no time might be lost, I gave him a list of ordnance and stores which we want, and I beg they may be sent as soon as possible, as we want them much. I should wish that two 12-pounders with battery carriages and a sufficient quantity of stores should be added, as the enemy seem inclined to be obstinate.

A quantity of pice was found in the mint. I ordered Mr. Robert Taylor to take charge of it. We shall be in want of a considerable sum of money for purchasing many things which we shall be in immediate want of. I request you will send us a proper supply as soon as possible. I have sent to collect labourers, of which we shall want a great number to complete our batteries, and as these people must be paid daily, I have appointed Mr. Robert Taylor to act as paymaster, and I beg leave warmly to recommend him to you as a very proper person to take charge of the money to be sent over. Upon our arrival here I sent a summons of surrender to the Governor of the fort, who took no notice of it, and returned our letters unopened.

I remain, with respect,

Hon'ble Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

ROBERT GORDON.

Portuguese Church at Thána, }
Wednesday, 14th December 1774. }

HON'BLE SIR,—Yesterday evening about 8 o'clock I was favoured with your letter, dated $\frac{3}{4}$ past 1 o'clock, 14th December.

I am informed that the boat with the battering cannon is arrived at the landing place. Mr. Watson is gone down to get them ashore, and all our bigaris are employed in making the road; but the small number of these people which we have, distresses and retards us much in carrying on the service, as instead of one hundred and fifty we ought to have at least five hundred for the different purposes for which they are required. The country people seem afraid to work for us, lest the Maráthás should burn their houses. The epaulement was finished in the night, and a 12-pounder now effectually commands the passage to Kalva.

I am sorry to tell you that the rice sent for the sepoys is so bad that it cannot be served out. I have directed the Commissary to take the speediest method of getting a supply of this essential article.

I have heard of two hundred Marátha horse whose retreat into the fort was cut off by a detachment which got betwixt them and the town. They have been plundering the villages. I have ordered a detachment to be in readiness to march to try to surprise them this evening, and I have promised that any horses taken from them shall be the property of the person who takes them.

As soon as our heavy artillery stores and intrenching tools are got up we shall begin our batteries, and we shall get them completed in as short a time as possible. I hope you have been pleased to order the two 24-pounders and the two 12-pounders with the other stores which were applied for yesterday to be sent as soon as can be done.

The fire from the fort has been more slack last night than it was the night before. It has had very little effect, as one European only is wounded. He has lost his leg. Three sepoys are slightly hurt with musketry.

The two harkáras arrived here this morning.

About four hours ago we heard some firing of cannon, which seemed from the sound to be from the northward.

Several Portuguese pátils of villages have applied for protection, which I have given them: they have promised to bring provisions to market, for which I shall take care that they are regularly and fairly paid.

I am,

Honourable Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

ROBERT GORDON.

*Portuguese Church at Thána, Thursday, }
2 o'clock, 15th December 1774.*

HON'BLE SIR,—Your letter at 11 o'clock A.M. of the 15th I received last night at 11 o'clock, and that dated 7 o'clock P.M. reached me about 2 this morning.

We shall have three 24-pounders and 18-pounders and two howitzers and 8-inches up this day. We shall begin in an hour to fill sand bags and prepare every material for our batteries, in order that having every thing ready, when once we begin to make them they may be completed in the shortest possible time. I hope the other two 24 and 12-pounders will arrive this day.

I have ordered Captain McLellan to reconnoitre a small fort to the northward, and to assault it if he thinks it can be done with a prospect of success. He is also to patrol as far as the village of Marol, and to attack any cavalry that he may meet.

Mr. Martin arrived here last night with the money, but I shall not use any of that till the pice, of which we have found a large quantity here, is expended.

The fears of the country people operate too powerfully on them to permit them to work. I have therefore no reliance on them for assistance in the service.

The enemy's fire, though much the same as yesterday, has done us very little damage.

I am,

Hon'ble Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,
ROBERT GORDON.

*Portuguese Church at Thána, }
Friday, 16th December 1774. }*

P.S.—I am told that Mirza could procure twenty good horsemen. If so, they might be useful to patrol the country.

HON'BLE SIR,—In my letter of yesterday I informed you that I had ordered Captain McLellan to patrol towards Marol, and to reconnoitre the fort to the northward. He marched on this service with a company of sepoy Grenadiers. About a mile and a half from the town he fell in with about eighty horse and four or five hundred foot, who were immediately attacked, and after a pretty smart brush the enemy were driven from all their posts. Upon quitting the village, into which the horse had thrown themselves, they set fire to it. In executing this service a serjeant and nine sepoy were wounded and two killed. The affair of yesterday has had this good effect, that a patrol has this morning made a circuit all round the town, at the distance of about a mile, without seeing a man of the enemy's. The fort to the northward is so situated that it cannot be attacked without risking the lives of a number of men, as the approach to it is flanked to the right by the whole fire of a tower and courtain, and on the left by some gallivats.

We shall begin our batteries this evening, and I hope by Monday morning to be able to open with our whole fire, as I am determined not to fire a shot till I have every gun and mortar in battery and ready for the attack.

The other guns and stores which you sent after us are arrived.

The enemy fired briskly last night, but they did us no sort of harm, as we have got so near the walls that they find it difficult to bring their guns from their lofty towers to bear on us.

Half a dozen coehorns with a proper proportion of shells, if they can be sent, will add much to the galling fire which must harass the enemy and draw their attention from the point of attack.

I have ordered a Káfri to be sent down in irons. He came in and claimed protection, and afterwards was taken under arms. He deserved to be hanged, but I did not choose by an act of justice to alarm the inhabitants, who, not knowing the cause, would have deemed it an act of severity or perhaps cruelty; but there can be no harm in putting him on the works for life.

Inclosed are indents from the Chief Engineer and Commanding Officer of Artillery for some small stores, which I request you will be pleased to order to be sent up as soon as possible. You will observe in Major Lee's indent that he demands the six coehorns.

I am,

Hon'ble Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,
ROBERT GORDON.

Thána, 17th December 1774, 1 o'clock.



HON'BLE SIR,—I have this minute received yours, dated at 10 o'clock, this afternoon. The forts of Himat and Fatte Buruj are upwards of half a mile from the bed of the river; consequently they could not command it. On a post at such a distance from the centre of our troops no less number than one hundred Europeans and one hundred sepoy would have sufficed, and from the judgment I have formed of the importance of such a post I am of opinion these troops may be much better employed elsewhere to complete our batteries, as there must be many hands wanted. The reduction of the fort is our grand object. To effect that our force must be united. Our detachments drive the enemy wherever they meet them; but even in beating them we lose men and harass the survivors. I am therefore resolved to carry on the siege with the utmost vigour and with all my force. The fort once taken the inferior posts will fall, and we may then with propriety make large detachments, but not till then.

The prisoners sent down are either people who were taken under arms against us or suspected persons. Under the latter description are three, who say they came from Bombay to make trade, but who were detected in walking about our advanced posts, though expressly told that they had no business there and that they must not go that way. I wrote to you particularly about a Káfri who is sent down.

Mr. Watson recommended Mirza to me as a man who could get twenty good horsemen. I know nothing about him myself, but was led to mention him from the above recommendation, as I think such a body if they could be got would be useful in effecting the reduction of the island. If Mirza is an improper or incapable person the fault is not mine.

You may rely on my straining every sinew to get the batteries ready as soon as possible. So soon as could be wished is impossible. But I have the satisfaction to find every officer and soldier is zealous in the service as I can wish them, and therefore I can rely on their best endeavours to promote it.

Some Marátha horse appeared last night at Kalva, a few of them were killed by a 12 pounder which commands that village, the others galloped off after setting fire to the village; this I suppose was the fire you saw.

The bigaris are not yet arrived. If they come this evening they will be of great use to us.

I enclose a list of the men who were killed and wounded on the attack with Captain McLellan yesterday morning. I am sorry to inform you that several of the wounded are very dangerously hurt, amongst whom is a very good serjeant.

I am,

Sir,

Your most humble and obedient Servant,

ROBERT GORDON.

Thána, 17th December 1774, }
Saturday, 5 o'clock. }

HON'BLE SIR,—At five this afternoon I was favoured with yours at midday of this date.

The Engineer, Captain Nelson, has promised that our batteries shall be ready by to-morrow morning. He has every aid to effect this that he has demanded. A working party of a hundred men are ready to join those now at work if he can employ them. A few hours hence I shall be better able to judge if he can comply with his engagements; if he does not, it shall not be my fault, as I have done whatever depended on me.

the informations you had received respecting the fort, roads, &c., have proved very erroneous. The fort is very strong, and on the conducting of the siege my character is at stake. Whatever therefore can promote this first object shall be pursued with the most unwearied diligence. I have explained myself fully to you respecting detachments—large ones—at present. I cannot make small ones to expose our arms to loss and disgrace.

One of our 24-pounders has driven the gallivats from their station. Our batteries and Grenadiers will, I trust, have the same effect on whatever forces they have in the fort.

The men who are dangerously wounded cannot be removed without risking their lives. The others may soon be fit for service.

A quantity of rice, much more than sufficient for immediate consumption, has been sent up. I beg no more may be sent till demanded, as we find much difficulty in furnishing parties to bring it from the boats which lie at a considerable distance from our magazines.

I am,

Hon'ble Sir,

Your most humble Servant,
ROBERT GORDON.

Thé Sunday, 19th December 1774.

I AM SIR,—I have the pleasure to inform you that at 10 o'clock this morning our batteries opened before Thána. We go on very well and I hope soon to take off their defences where they are. We shall begin to batter in breach.

A shot from the fort has just this instant killed two and wounded two Artillerymen.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,
ROBERT GORDON.

Battery before Thána, 20th December 1774, }
½ past 10 o'clock. }

P.S.—Another man is just killed.

HON'BLE SIR,—I have just been favoured with yours dated 9 o'clock, 20th December, at 5 this morning.

Our batteries go on very well, but the towers are of very hard stone and excellent masonry, and they will take a great deal of battering. Wherever our guns are brought to bear, the enemy are driven from theirs. Many of our fuses are very bad, which renders our bombardment of much less effect than it would otherwise be. This is the second time the service has suffered from such unpardonable neglect; at Broach it was just the same, notwithstanding that there are two officers paid for attending the laboratory.

I am very sorry to inform you that Mr. Watson has just got covered with dust and small stones thrown up by a shot from the enemy. He is wounded in the arm but not dangerously. His eyes are filled with dust; his forehead a little scratched and his leg bruised.

Our loss since my last has been very small. A corporal of Infantry and a lascar are killed and two sepoys wounded. As the pice which is found here will not pass current, if you approve of it I will order it to be sent to Bombay, where it may be re-coined. I sent you a



CAPTURE OF SALSETTE.

CSL

list of some stores which it is probable we shall want. I beg therefore you will order them with the utmost despatch.

I remain, with respect,

Hon'ble Sir,

Your most humble Servant,

ROBERT GORDON.

*Batteries before Thána, 21st December 1774, }
10 o'clock A.M.*

P.S.—Our battery at first opening consisted of four 24-pounders, to which we have added another 24-pounder, and at some further distance from that we ordered last night a battery for two guns, one of 18 and one 12-pounder. We judge our distance from the fort to be from two hundred and fifty three to three hundred yards. We suspect there is a ditch.

HON'BLE SIR,—I have now the pleasure to inform you that the defences of two of the towers and a courtain are taken off and we have begun to batter in breach with success, as we can already see day-light through the wall of the parapet.

As our accounts differed respecting there being a ditch or not, I ordered that point which was of much importance in the conducting of the siege to be examined into. This was accordingly done by Captain McLellan, who sounded the ditch. It is about fifteen feet deep and twenty wide and in very good repair.

We have suffered very little these last twenty-four hours from the enemy's fire.

Mr. Watson has had a very indifferent night, but he has now got a good sleep, much easier this morning. It is feared part of the stone is lodged in his arm, but the surgeons apprehend no danger from the wound: his eyes are better than they were.

Lieutenant Arthur Jones' exceeding bad health renders it necessary for him to return to Bombay. He is a young man of much spirit, but he has a wretched constitution. We want an ill spare officers, as we feel infinite inconvenience from the want of a proper number of European subalterns for our sepoys. Without one to each company, posts of importance cannot be trusted to them, nor their services depended on.

Our troops are in high spirits, and I doubt not but, that when the breach is ready, they will do every thing that can be expected from them, as I never saw men show more steadiness than they did in entering the town.

Before we can assault, the ditch must be filled up. This necessarily adds to the dangers and difficulties which we have to encounter with, and retards the reduction of the fort.

A Mr. Murray came here to offer his services as a volunteer. His character is so bad for drinking with and debauching the soldiers at Bombay, that I would not receive him and have ordered him back to Bombay.

I remain, respectfully,

Hon'ble Sir,

Your most humble Servant,

ROBERT GORDON.

Thána, 22nd December 1774.

P.S.—I beg you will be so good as to order the stores indented for yesterday to be sent up as soon as possible as we have already used 76 out of the 90 barrels of gunpowder we brought along with us. Be so good as to order likewise 500 rounds of 24 lb. round shot.

R. G.

HON'BLE SIR,—Your letter of the 22nd at 9 o'clock in the morning reached me at 6 yesterday evening. I am very glad to hear that so much despatch is made in sending off the stores for us, as our powder is almost expended.

Our breaching batteries go on very well, and will, I hope, soon have the full effect that we wish from them.

Your informer, respecting the shells thrown from the left and rear of Captain Stuart's post, has had the misfortune to tell you the exact reverse of truth. Many of these shells were thrown over the fort; but as the officers who had charge of these mortars had positive orders to throw their fire in a particular line, where the fort was very narrow, some shells going over is not at all surprising. They effected the purpose they were intended for, namely, to draw the enemy from our real point of attack, entirely to my satisfaction.

A large body of the enemy, supposed to be about eight hundred, made a brisk attack on our posts this morning, but we were everywhere prepared for them and they were repulsed with a considerable loss. One of their subhedárs is wounded and taken prisoner. We had a subhedár and one sepoy killed and one European and eight sepoys wounded.

I am,

Hon'ble Sir,

Your most humble Servant,
ROBERT GORDON.

P.S.—Mr. Watson left this place about noon and I suppose will be with you this evening.

HON'BLE SIR,—I am to inform you that as the breach appears practicable for an assault, I last night ordered an attempt to be made to fill up the ditch, but the lascars and bigaris who carried the fascines and sand bags no sooner received a few shots than they threw down their loads. I directed a second attempt to be made, and offered a large reward to the lascars, and they went on again but returned as speedily on being fired on, so that I was obliged to desist for the present.

As on our approach to the walls the enemy fired two guns from the flank of the bastion against which our attack is directed, I find it necessary to order another battery to be constructed to take off. This will be done this night, and it will much facilitate our approach in filling up the ditch, on which service I shall be obliged to employ Europeans.

I send indents for some stores which we shall want, and I beg they may be sent as soon as possible.

Colonel Egerton has been very ill for several days, and it is judged absolutely necessary for his recovery that he should return to Bombay, and as soon as his health will permit he desires to join the army again, which I hope he will soon be able to do.

The enemy have not molested us in the least since the repulse they met with yesterday morning. Many of them have crossed the river at some distance above the fort, but there is still a considerable body on this side.

Every effort shall be made to effect the service as soon as possible.

The powder arrived this morning. When it did, we had not above four or five rounds to each gun remaining.



We have a good number of men on the sick list, exclusive of the wounded. The flux is the principal complaint amongst them, arising from their great fatigue.

In the attempt which was made last night there was only one lascar and two or three bigaris slightly wounded. A company of Grenadiers, which entirely covered and protected them, suffered no loss whatever though advanced close to the counters.

The powder barrels in general run very short of weight. Instead of 100 lbs. they rarely exceed 85, and sometimes not above 80 pounds.

I am, with respect,
Hon'ble Sir,
Your most humble Servant,
ROBERT GORDON.

Thána, 24th December 1774, $\frac{1}{2}$ past 10 A.M.

HON'BLE SIR,—I informed you yesterday morning of the attempt which we had made without success to fill up the ditch, and that I should be under the necessity of employing Europeans on this service. Accordingly a party of two hundred soldiers and thirty seamen, covered by the 2nd Grenadier Company, advanced to the counter scarp, loaded with fascines and sand bags. They persisted in the work for nearly two hours with the utmost steadiness under a most galling and incessant fire from the breach. But our loss in killed and wounded was so great, that I was obliged to order them to retreat before the passage across the ditch could be completed. While the working party were employed, the batteries kept up a constant fire on the enemy's works, but the grape shot could not be directed towards the breach without hurting our own people; consequently the enemy were enabled to keep their ground there.

You will see by the return enclosed how heavily the loss has fallen on the Grenadiers, who did everything that men could do.

To make another attempt of the same kind would be throwing away the lives of many gallant men. Nothing therefore remains but to proceed by sap. This will be tedious, but it must be done unless some part of the great tower which is to be battered down fills up the ditch. I send you the Engineer's sentiments on this head, and lists of the stores wanted by him and the Commanding Officer of Artillery, which I beg may be sent as soon as possible. Our force is not sufficient to occupy all the posts necessary to form a complete blockade, reserving a sufficient number to furnish working parties, guards to protect our batteries and stores, and at the same time to be prepared as well for attacks from within as from without. Could a blockade be formed, all chance of retreat or relief being cut off from the enemy would dispirit them exceedingly.

You can best judge how far it would be possible to furnish me with some more force to effect this. I can only say, that the stronger we are the sooner we shall be able to succeed. Thána once taken our whole strength exerted against the weaker places would enable us more speedily in my opinion to effect the reduction of the whole.

The wounded officers, and such of the men as can be removed, proceed to Bombay in boats.

The loss we suffered last night gives one the greatest uneasiness both on account of the sufferers and the great diminution which it is to our strength. But military operations cannot be conducted without being exposed to such accidents.



Had we been happy enough to have succeeded in filling up the ditch, I had everything prepared for the assault immediately or soon after.

I remain, with respect,

Hon'ble Sir,

Your most humble Servant,

ROBERT GORDON.

Thana, 25th December 1774.

P.S.—We are now much distressed for want of officers from the number that are wounded. Mr. Lane delivered me your letters of yesterday about 12 o'clock last night.

R. G.

To
ROBERT GORDON, ESQUIRE,
Brigadier-General and Commander-in-Chief.

SIR,—Agreeably to your orders I have considered our present situation and the extreme hazard with which the filling up the ditch before the breach is attended, the army being far from sufficient to furnish so large working parties as are necessarily wanted in carrying on regular approaches. Therefore should such a resolution take place, our work would go on extremely slow, as the bigaris are not to be depended on where any steadiness is required. What I would therefore advise at present is totally to destroy the south-east tower by battering the same as soon as possible and rendering it unserviceable to the enemy. The rubbish of the same would greatly facilitate the filling up the ditch before the breach, and should it by that means still not be entirely effected, yet by the said tower being rendered incapable of annoying us, an approach may then be made along the side of a loose stone wall which leads to Batterdean (?) across the ditch, and which possibly afterwards may be pierced in order to let the water out of the ditch; but which possibly cannot be effected at present, as the plunging fire from the tower entirely prevents any approach that way; further every part of the parapets of the whole front of the attack ought to be entirely laid smooth with the same plain as the ramparts to prevent the enemy being covered by those defences, and this should absolutely be completed before any further material movement is undertaken.

Lastly another breach may be made in the bastion on the left of the attack, by which means a storm may be afterwards made in two places at once.

I have the honor to be, with great respect,

Sir,

Your most obedient and most humble Servant,

LAWRENCE NILSON,

Chief Engineer.

HON'BLE SIR,—Yesterday morning I received your letter dated $\frac{1}{4}$ past 11 at night, 25th December 1774.

You will please to observe from the whole tenor of my letters to you that I am fully sensible of the importance of cutting off all succour from the enemy and that nothing but the want of a sufficient force to effect that (having due attention at the same time to the other part of the service), has prevented my occupying every post which could tend to straiten their quarters or to intimidate them. But liable as our posts are to be attacked from without as well as within, they must be strong; consequently fewer can be taken possession of.