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were due from him, gave security for the punctual discharge of the revenues of his district in future.

From hence the Nabob detached his brother Abdullwahab Khan with 1000 horse to Arcot, appointing him his lieutenant of the countries to the north of the river Palar; and the rest of the army marching by Verdachillum, proceeded to Trivadi, where they arrived on the 6th of July, and found a garrison of French Sepoys in the pagoda, who surrendered on the first summons. The troops then encamped in the neighbourhood, and major Lawrence leaving the command to captain Gingen, went for the recovery of his health into Fort St. David. This place was no longer the seat of the presidency, which, by orders from England, had been removed, two months before, to its ancient residence at Madrafs.

The death of Chunda-saheb, and the capture of Seringham, struck the inhabitants of Pondicherry with the deepest consternation; for excepting those who received advantages from their employments in the war, few had ever approved of the ambitious views of their governor, and fewer were personally attached to him. The haughtiness and arrogance of his spirit disgusted all who approached him: he exhibited on all occasions the oriental pomp, and marks of distinction, which he assumed as the Great Mogul's viceroy in the countries south of the Krishna; insomuch that he had more than once obliged his own countrymen to submit to the humiliation of paying him homage on their knees. This domineering insolence had created him many enemies, who, with a spirit of malice common to violent prejudices, were not sorry to find their own sense of his romantic schemes justified by the late signal disasters, which they hoped would deter him from prosecuting them any farther. But they did not know the man: difficulties and disappointments, instead of depressing him, only suggested the necessity of exerting himself with more vigour. And indeed his plain of gaining vast acquisitions in the Decan had been laid with so much sagacity, that the successes of his arms to the northward already ballanced the disgrace they had suffered at Seringham.

In the month of February of the preceding year, Salabat-jing the new Soubah, with the French troops under the command of Bussy, quitted



quitted the country of Cudapah where the unfortunate Murzafa-jing had been killed. On the 15th of March they came to Kanoul the capital of the Pitan Nabob by whose hand that prince was slain, and it was determined that the city should atone for the treachery and rebellion of its Lord. The place was originally well fortified; but since it had been in the possession of Pitans, these people, as avaricious as they are brave, had suffered the defences both of the town and its citadel to fall to decay; and the river which runs close to the city, had lately carried away 200 yards of the wall; there were 4000 Pitans in the place, who attempted to defend this entrance; but not accustomed to the fire of field pieces, were easily put to flight: they retired into the castle, several parts of which were likewise in ruins; and the French troops, animated by their success, and led by Mr. Kerjean, a nephew of Mr. Dupleix, stormed it, with great vivacity, where the breaches were most practicable; by which time the army of Salabat-jing came up, and assisted with good will in putting all the garrison to the sword; many of the inhabitants were likewise massacred. The wife of the late Nabob and her two sons were made prisoners.

The French doubtless intended, by the unmerciful slaughter which they made at the taking of this city, to spread early the terror of their arms, through the countries in which they were going to establish themselves, where no European force had ever before appeared: and in order to raise an opinion of their good faith and justice, equal to the reputation of their prowess, Mr. Buffey, immediately after Kanoul was taken, obliged Salabat-jing to settle the fortune of Sadoudin Khan, the infant son of Murzafa-jing, their late ally and Soubah. He received the investiture of the government of Adoni, which had been the patrimony of his father, and as a just reparation for the treachery that caused his death, the territory of the Nabob of Cudapah, who planned the conspiracy, and of Kanoul, by whose arm he fell, were added to the sovereignty of the young prince, which by the French accounts produced all together an annual revenue of near a million of pounds sterling. An example of generosity, which, if true, could not fail to raise admiration in a country, where the merits of the father are so seldom of advantage to the distresses of the son.



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The army then crossed the Krishna, between which and Gol-Kondah were posted 25000 Morattoes, employed by Gazy-o-din Khan, the eldest brother of Salabat-jing, and generalissimo of the empire, to oppose their passage towards the city. They were commanded by Balazarow, the principal general of the Nanah, or king of all the Morattoe nations. A negotiation ensued, and the Morattoes, having hitherto received nothing from Gazy-o-din Khan, who was at Delhi, were easily persuaded, with some ready money, not only to retire, but also to make an alliance with the prince they were sent to oppose.

Nothing more remained to obstruct the passage of the army, which entered Gol-Kondah in the procession of an eastern triumph on the 2d of April. Salabat-jing was acknowledged Soubah without opposition, and went through the ceremony of sitting on the *Musnud* or throne in public, and of receiving homage not only from his own immediate officers, but also from most of the governors of the neighbouring countries.

The services which the French battalion had rendered were now amply rewarded. A present supposed to be 100,000 pounds sterling was given to the commander in chief, the other officers likewise received gratuities, and that of an ensign, amounted to 50,000 rupees. The monthly pay of a captain, besides the carriage of his baggage furnished at Salabat-jing's expence, was settled at 1000 rupees, of a lieutenant at 500, of an ensign at 300, of a serjeant at 90, and of a common soldier at 60 rupees. The policy of Mr. Dupleix, in taking possession of Masulipatnam, was now manifested by the facility with which the army at Gol-Kondah was supplied with recruits of men, stores and ammunition from that port.

In the mean time, Gazy-o-din Khan had obtained from the ministry at Delhi a commission for the Soubahship of the Decan, and the rumour of an army marching by his orders towards Brampour, determined Salabat-jing to proceed immediately to Aurengabad. He left Gol-Kondah in the beginning of May, and during the rout, intelligence was received that several principal men in the city had declared against him, and Shanavaz-Khan, who had been the prime minister of Nazir-jing, and had ever since his reconciliation with the French after the death

of



Book IV.

HISTORY OF THE CARNATIC.

of that prince, accompanied the camp, now found means to escape out of it, and went directly to Aurengabad, where he contributed not a little to inflame the minds of the people against Salabat-jing, describing him as a weak and infatuated prince, who had dishonoured the Mogul government, by subjecting himself, and his authority, to the arbitrary will of a handful of infidels, who grasped at nothing less than the sovereignty of half the Mogul empire, under pretence of giving assistance to the rightful lords.

These reports were too well founded not to make an impression, and the consequences of them were so much apprehended, that Salabat-jing did not think it safe to appear in sight of the capital, before he had acted the state but pompous ceremony of receiving from the hands of an ambassador, said to be sent by the great Mogul, letters patent, appointing him viceroy of all the countries which had been under the jurisdiction of his father Nizam-al-muluck. The man, no doubt as fictitious as the writings with which he was charged, was treated almost with as much reverence as would have been paid to the emperor, whom he pretended to represent. The prince himself, accompanied by the French troops, advanced a mile beyond the camp to meet him; and the delivery of the letters was signified by a general discharge of all the cannon and musketry in the army, after which he sat in state to receive homage from his officers; Mr. Buffy, as the first in rank, giving the example. The army then continued their march to the city, where they arrived on the 18th of June, and found that their appearance, and the reputation of the Mogul's favours, had suppressed whatever commotions might have been intended. A few indeed knew for certain that Gazy-o-din Khan had received the commission assumed by his brother, and was preparing to assert it at the head of an army; but the voices of these were lost amidst the clamours of a populace, impatient to see a Soubah of the Decan, once more making his residence in their city, which had been deprived of this advantage ever since the death of Nizam-al-muluck.

The entry into Aurengabad was more splendid and magnificent, than that which had been made at Gol-Kondah: and the city merited this preference, being, next to Delhi, the most populous and wealthy in



1752. the Mogul's dominions: its inhabitants, when the Soubah is there, are computed at a million and a half of souls. The French had a convenient quarter assigned them, to which Mr. Bussy strictly obliged the troops to confine themselves, lest the disparity of manners should create broils and tumults which might end fatally.

In the month of August, Salabat-jing exhibited another ceremony to amuse the people, receiving a delegate from Delhi, who brought, as was pretended, the Serpaw or vest, with the sword, and other symbols of sovereignty, which the Great Mogul sends to his viceroys on appointment. But by this time, Balazarow appeared again at the head of 40,000 men, ravaging the neighbouring countries. Battles and negotiations succeeded one another alternately during the rest of the year, and until the end of May in the next, without producing either a decisive victory, or a definitive treaty. The Morattoes would in more than one action have been successful had not the French battalion, and their field pieces, repulsed their onsets. These services gave Mr. Bussy supreme influence in the councils of his ally, which, on hearing of the decline of Chunda-saheb's affairs at Trichinopoly, he employed to obtain a commission, appointing Mr. Dupleix Nabob of the Carnatic, notwithstanding that Chunda-saheb was still alive; this, with several other pompous patents, was sent to Pondicherry, and Salabat-jing promised they should soon be followed by an ambassador from the Great Mogul.

Mr. Dupleix published these mandates and marks of favour to awe the Carnatic, astonished and rendered wavering by the catastrophe of Chunda-saheb: nor were these his only resources. He had been early apprized of the discontent of the Mysores at Trichinopoly, and was already deeply engaged in fomenting their defection. The annual ships from France arriving at the time Mr. Law surrendered, brought a large reinforcement to Pondicherry, which he increased, by taking the sailors, and sending Lascars on board to navigate the ships to China. Thus armed, and relying on no vain expectations, the disasters at Seringham were so far from inducing him to make any proposals of accommodation either to the English or the Nabob, that he immediately discovered his intentions of continuing the war, by proclaiming Raja-saheb,



faheb, the son of Chunda-faheb, Nabob of the province, in virtue of the pretended authority invested in himself, and by ordering a body of 500 men to take the field.

Mahomed-ally felt more severely every day the bad consequences of his promise to the Mysorean, for none but the most insignificant chiefs in the province offered voluntarily to acknowledge him; the rest waited to be attacked before they made their submission; and he being little skilled in military matters, but deeply sensible of the decline of his fortune, conceived a notion, that the English troops were capable of reducing the fortrefs of Gingee; in this persuasion he requested of the presidency in the most pressing terms to render him this service, and they with too much complaisance determined to give him the satisfaction of seeing the experiment tried, notwithstanding that major Lawrence went to Madras on purpose to represent the improbability of succeeding in the attempt.

Accordingly on the 23d of July, major Kineer, an officer lately arrived from Europe, marched with 200 Europeans, 1500 Sepoys, and 600 of the Nabob's cavalry, and the next day summoned Villaparam, a fort twelve miles to the north of Trivadi: it surrendered without making any resistance. Proceeding on their march, they found difficulties increase; for the country 10 miles round Gingee is inclosed by a circular chain of mountains, and the roads leading through them are strong passes, of which it is necessary that an army attacking the place should be in possession, in order to keep the communication open. Major Kineer's force being much too small to afford proper detachments for this service, he marched on with the whole to Gingee, where he arrived the 26th. The garrison was summoned to surrender, and the officer answered with civility, that he kept the place for the king of France, and was determined to defend it. The troops were in no condition to attack it; for by some unaccountable presumption, they had neglected to wait for two pieces of battering cannon, which were coming from Fort St. David. Mr. Dupleix no sooner heard that the English had passed the mountains, than he detached 300 Europeans and 500 Sepoys, with seven field pieces, who took possession of Vickravandi, a town situated in the high road, and not far distant



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distant from the pass through which the English had marched; upon which major Kineer, who upon a view of Gingee despaired of reducing it even with battering cannon, immediately repassed the mountains, and being reinforced by the rest of the Nabob's cavalry, and some other troops from Trivadi, marched on the 26th of July, with 300 Europeans, 500 Sepoys, a company of Coffrees, and 2000 horse, to give the enemy battle.

They were posted in a strong situation. The greatest part of the town was encircled by a rivulet, which serving as a ditch, was defended by a parapet, formed of the ruins of old houses, and interrupted at proper intervals to give play to the cannon. The outward bank was in many parts as high as the parapet: and that part of the village which the rivulet did not bound might be easily entered; but the English neglecting to reconnoitre before they began the attack, lost the advantages which they might have taken of these circumstances.

They marched directly to the enemy, who, in order to bring on the engagement in that part where they were strongest, appeared at first drawn up on the outward bank of the rivulet, but as soon as the field pieces began to fire, recrossed it with precipitation, and the appearance of fear. The English, elated with the imagination of their panic, advanced to the bank, and leaving their field pieces behind, began the attack with the fire of their musketry only. The enemy answering it, both from musketry and field pieces, and under shelter, suffered little loss, and did much execution. The company of English Coffrees were first flung into disorder by carrying off their wounded as they dropped, and soon after took flight; they were followed by the Sepoys; and major Kineer in this instant receiving a wound which disabled him, the Europeans began to waver likewise. The enemy perceiving the confusion, detached 100 of their best men, amongst which were 50 volunteers, who, crossing the rivulet briskly, advanced to the bank. The vivacity of this unexpected motion increased the panic, and only 14 grenadiers, with two ensigns, stood by the colours: these indeed defended them bravely, until they were rejoined by some of the fugitives, with whom they retreated in order; and the French, satisfied with their success, returned to the village, having, with very little loss to themselves,



selves, killed and wounded 40 of the English battalion, which suffered in this action more disgrace than in any other that had happened during the war: Major Kineer was so affected by it, that although he recovered of his wound, his vexation brought on an illness, of which he some time after died.

The troops retreated to Trivadi, and the enemy, quitting Vickravandi, retook the fort of Villaparam, which they demolished. Mr. Dupleix, animated by these successes, slight as they were, reinforced them with all the men he could send into the field; the whole, consisting of 450 Europeans, 1500 Sepoys, and 500 Moorish horse, marched and encamped to the north of Fort St. David, close to the bounds; upon which the English and the Nabob's troops quitted Trivadi, and encamped at Chimundelum, a redoubt in the bound hedge, three miles to the west of St. David; here they remained for some days inactive, waiting for more troops from Madrafs, where the ships from England had brought a reinforcement, consisting principally of two companies of Swifs, each of 100 men, commanded by officers of that nation.

To avoid the risque and delay of a march by land, one of these companies was immediately embarked in Massoolas, the common and lightest boats of the country, and ordered to proceed to Fort St. David by sea; for it was not imagined that the French would venture to violate the English colours on this element: but the boats no sooner came in sight of Pondicherry than a ship in the road weighed anchor, and seizing every one of the boats, carried the troops into the town; where Mr. Dupleix kept them prisoners, and insisted that the capture was as justifiable as that which had been made of his own troops at Seringham.

As soon as the news of this loss reached Madrafs, Major Lawrence embarked with the other company of Swifs, on board of one of the company's ships, and arrived the 16th of August at Fort St. David. The next day he took the command of the army, which consisted of 400 Europeans, 1700 Sepoys, and 4000 of the Nabob's troops, cavalry, and Peons, with eight field pieces. The enemy hearing of his arrival decamped in the night, and retreated to Bahoor, and finding them-

selves

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They shewed so little inclination to quit this situation, that major Lawrence, imagining nothing would entice them out of it but a persuasion that the English were become as unwilling as themselves to venture a general engagement, retreated precipitately to Bahoor. The stratagem took effect, not with the commanding officer Mr. Kerjean, but with his uncle Mr. Dupleix, who ordered him to follow the English, and take advantage of their supposed fears. The remonstrances of his nephew only produced a more peremptory order, in obedience to which Mr. Kerjean marched, and encamped within two miles of Bahoor, where major Lawrence immediately made the necessary dispositions for attacking him.

The troops began to march at three the next morning; the Sepoys formed the first line, the battalion the second, and the artillery were divided on the flanks; the Nabob's cavalry were stationed to the right on the other side of a high bank, which ran from the English to the enemy's camp: the attack began a little before the dawn of day. The Sepoys were challenged by the advanced posts, and not answering, received their fire, which they returned, and still marching on came to an engagement with the enemy's Sepoys, which lasted till day-light, when the French battalion were discovered drawn up; their right defended by the bank, and their left by a large pond. The English battalion halted to form their front equal to that of the enemy, who, during this operation, kept up a brisk fire from eight pieces of cannon, and continued it till the small arms began. The action now became warm, the English firing as they advanced, and the French standing their ground until the bayonets met.



This crisis of modern war is generally determined in an instant, and very few examples of it occur. The company of English grenadiers, with two platoons, broke the enemy's center, on which their whole line immediately gave way, and no quarter being expected in such a conflict, they threw down their arms as incumbrances to their flight. This was the moment for the Nabob's cavalry to charge, as they had been instructed; but instead of setting out in pursuit of the fugitives, they galloped into the camp, and employed themselves in plunder; however, the Sepoys picked up many of them. Mr. Kerjean, with 13 officers and 100 private men, were made prisoners, and a greater number were killed; all the enemy's artillery, ammunition, and stores were taken. Of the English battalion, 4 officers and 78 private men were killed and wounded.

This victory broke the enemy's force so effectually, that Mr. Dupleix was obliged to wait the arrival of farther reinforcements before he attempted any thing more in the field; nor was this the only advantage obtained by it, for it checked the resolution which the Mysorean had just taken of declaring openly for the French.

The English battalion no sooner quitted Trichinopoly, than the regent set about accomplishing his scheme of surprizing the city, and by disbursing large sums of money, endeavoured to gain 500 of the Nabob's best Peons, armed with firelocks. The Jemidars, or captains of these troops, received his bribes, and promised to join the 700 Mysoreans in the garrison whenever they should rise. Captain Dalton receiving some hints of the conspiracy, kept ward in the city with as much vigilance as if he had been in an enemy's country, and caused the artillery on the ramparts to be pointed every evening inwards on the quarters of the Mysoreans, and of the suspected Peons.

These precautions naturally alarmed those who had been treating with the regent; but still none of them made any discovery; whereupon, at a general review of arms ordered for this purpose, he directed their flints to be taken out of their firelocks, under pretence of supplying them with some of a better sort. This convincing them that their practices were discovered, the Jemidars came and confessed all that had passed, imploring forgiveness: each brought the

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sum he had received, and that of the principal man was 16,000 rupees. They protested that they had no view in taking the money, but to keep their troops from starving, who had scarcely received any pay from the Nabob for nine months; and as a proof that they had no intention of assisting the Mysorean in his designs, they said, that not one of them had removed his wife and family out of the city. Captain Dalton made them few reproaches, but ordered them to march with their troops the next morning to join the Nabob's army at Trivadi. The regent finding this scheme frustrated, hired two fellows to shoot captain Dalton as he walked on the ramparts, who luckily receiving intelligence of their design a few hours before they intended to put it in execution, sent a detachment which took them prisoners in the house where they had concealed themselves with their arms. One was fullen, and said little, but the other confessed the whole, and declared, that three more were engaged in the plot, who had undertaken to watch the gate of the palace, and shoot Kiroodin Khan, the Nabob's brother-in-law, when he should come out on the tumult which the death of the English commander would naturally occasion; but these, on seeing the soldiers march to the house, had made their escape. The regent, when reproached for this treachery, denied that he had any knowledge of it. He employed, however, Morari-row to solicit the pardon of the assassins; and the friendship of the Morattoo being at this time thought very valuable, Kiroodin Khan granted his request, but did not relieve the men before they had gone through the ceremony of being fastened to the muzzles of two field pieces in sight of the whole garrison drawn up under arms. Five days after two other Mysoreans came to another Jemidar, who commanded 180 Sepoys at one of the gates of the city, and attempted to seduce him; but this officer, an old and faithful servant of the company, secured the fellows, and carried them to captain Dalton. The articles signed by the regent were found on them, which leaving no room for equivocation, they confessed the act, and were the next morning blown from the muzzles of two field pieces. This execution struck such a terror, that the regent could not get any more of his own people to undertake such commissions; and having remained quiet for some days, he at length pitched upon one Clement Poverio, a Neapolitan, who



commanded a company of Topasses in the Nabob's service, and had often the guard over the French prisoners in the city. This man, trading a good deal, went frequently into the camp of the Myforeans, which gave the regent an opportunity of making application to him in person. He assured Poverio that he had, besides the Myforeans in garrison, a strong party in the city, and offered great rewards if he would join them on the first commotion. The Neapolitan gave him cause to believe he was to be wrought upon, but said he must first sound the disposition of his officers; and on his return he made a faithful report to captain Dalton of what had passed. He was ordered to return to the camp the next morning with instructions how to proceed, and conducted himself so dexterously, that a few conferences intirely gained him the confidence of the regent. Having settled the plan of operations, he brought to captain Dalton the agreement signed by the regent and himself, sealed with the great seal of Myfore: it was specified, that captain Poverio should receive 20,000 rupees for himself, and 3000 more to buy firelocks, in order to arm the French prisoners, who were to be let out the first time his company took the guard over them; he was at the same time to seize on the western gate of the city, near which the Myforeans were encamped, and to hoist a red flag, on which signal the whole army were to move, and enter the town.

On the day fixed for the execution of this enterprize, all the cannon that could be brought to bear on the Myfore camp were well manned, and above 700 musketeers, Europeans and Sepoys, were concealed in the traverses and works near the western gateway, with a great number of hand grenades; the rest of the garrison was under arms, and the Myforeans would certainly have suffered severely; but the fears of the Nabob's brother-in-law put a stop to the enterprize. He was apprehensive that the attempt might succeed, and to avoid the risque, sent a messenger to upbraid the regent, and to acquaint him that the garrison were prepared to receive him.

The regent thinking himself no longer safe under the cannon of the city, decamped, and fixed his head quarters three miles to the westward, at the Pagodas of Warrior, which were garrisoned by English

Sepoys;

Sepoys; but finding that captain Dalton had reinforced this post, he moved again, and encamped near Seringham.

The mutual distrust increased daily, although the outward appearance of friendship subsisted; for the regent sent every day one of his principal officers to enquire after captain Dalton's health, in order to have an opportunity of discovering what he was doing. When the two months stipulated for the delivery of the city were expired, he sent four of his principal officers in form to demand the surrender of it; but Kiroodin Khan, a man haughty and insolent, when no danger was near, flew out into a passion, and reproaching the commissaries with the treacherous and clandestine practices of their prince, produced the agreement with captain Poverio, signed and sealed, and then told them plainly, that they had no city to expect, but should be paid the money which the regent had disbursed, as soon as the Nabob's finances were in a better condition.

The regent pretended to be much offended with this answer; however, after some consideration, he sent his minister to lay the accounts before the Nabob, declaring, that he was willing to relinquish his claim to Trichinopoly, provided the money was immediately paid. This appearance of moderation was only intended to lessen the Nabob's character with the publick, and to justify the measures he was determined to take himself; for he was too well acquainted with his circumstances, to imagine him able to pay so large a sum, which, by the accounts he produced, amounted to 8,500,000 rupees.

There now remained little hopes of reconciling the difference, which Mr. Dupleix had from the beginning diligently inflamed: knowing that it was the interest of the Morattoes to protract a war, he addressed himself particularly to Morari-row, who continually received presents and letters from him, as also from his wife. In these letters the English were represented as a plodding mercantile people, unacquainted with the art of war, and not fit to appear in the field, opposed to a nation of so martial a genius as the French; and the success at Seringham was totally ascribed to the valour and activity of the Morattoe cavalry.



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Morari-row having settled his plan, easily persuaded the regent to acquiesce in it, and ambassadors were sent to Pondicherry, where a treaty was soon concluded, and war resolved; Mr. Dupleix promising to take Trichinopoly, and give it to the Mysoreans. In consequence of this alliance, Innis Khan, with 3000 Morattoes, was detached from Seringaham in the middle of August, with instructions to join the French, but first to go to the Nabob's camp, and endeavour to get some money from him; for this object never failed to be interwoven in all Morari-row's schemes. The detachment taking time to plunder the province as they marched along, were at some distance from the coast when they received news of the battle at Bahoor: startled at this success, Innis Khan halted, waiting for farther instructions from Trichinopoly; in consequence of which he joined the Nabob, with great protestations of friendship and seeming joy at the late event, pretending to lament that he had not come up in time to have a share in it; and in order to accomplish his intention of getting money, he did not hesitate to take the oath of fidelity to the Nabob.

Major Lawrence, notwithstanding his late success at Bahoor, did not think it prudent to engage in any farther operations, whilst he remained in uncertainty of the resolution which these Morattoes might take; but as soon as they joined him, he moved from Fort St. David to Trivadi, and prepared to employ the remainder of the season, before the rains began, in reducing the country between Pondicherry and the river Palar. At the same time the Nabob requested the presidency to send a force to attack Chinglapet and Cobelong, two strong holds, situated to the north of that river, which kept in subjection a considerable tract of country, and from whence detachments frequently plundered the territory belonging to the Nabob and the company.

Madras was able to furnish no more than 200 European recruits, just arrived from England, and, as usual, the refuse of the vilest employments in London, together with 500 Sepoys newly raised, and as unexperienced as the Europeans. Such a force appeared very unequal to the enterprize of laying siege to strong forts; and it could hardly be expected that any officer, who had acquired reputation, would risque it by taking the command of them; but captain Clive, whose military

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life had been a continued option of difficulties, voluntarily offered his service on this occasion, notwithstanding that his health was at this time much impaired by the excess of his former fatigues.

The troops, with four 24 pounders, marched on the 10th of September against Cobelong. This fort, called by the Moors Saudet Bundar, and situated twenty miles south of Madras, and within musket shot of the sea, was built by An'war-adean Khan, near the ruins of another belonging to the Ostend company. The French got possession of it in the beginning of the year 1750 by a stratagem. A ship anchored in the road, making signals of distress, and the Moors who repaired on board were told, that most of the crew had died of the scurvy, and that the rest would perish likewise, if they were not permitted to come ashore immediately, since they were no longer able to navigate the vessel. The Nabob's officer, in hopes of being well paid, granted their request; on which thirty Frenchmen of lean and yellow physiognomies, counterfeiting various kinds of infirmities, were admitted, and having arms concealed under their cloaths, overpowered the garrison in the night. The fort had no ditch, but a strong wall flanked by round towers, on which were mounted thirty pieces of cannon, and it was garrisoned by 50 Europeans and 300 Sepoys.

The English troops arrived in the evening at an eminence about two miles to the westward, from whence half of them marched in the night under the command of lieutenant Cooper, to take possession of a garden, situated about 600 yards to the south of the fort. At break of day the garrison detached 30 Europeans and 100 Sepoys, who advancing to the garden unobserved, began to fire through several large crevices in the gate, which was in a ruinous condition, and a shot killed lieutenant Cooper. The troops were so terrified by this alarm, and by the death of their officer, that they fled precipitately out of the garden, and would probably have run back to Madras, had they not been met by captain Clive advancing with the rest of his force, who obliged them, not without difficulty, and even violence, to rally, and return with him to the garden, which the enemy abandoned on his approach.



The next day he sent a summons to the French officer, who answered, that the fort belonged to the king of France, and that if the English committed any hostilities, his nation would deem it a declaration of war: he therefore expected that they would immediately withdraw; but if they persisted, and attacked the place, he and his garrison were determined to die in the breach. This blustering language proceeded from his reliance on a reinforcement of 700 Sepoys and 40 Europeans, which Mr. Dupleix had detached from Pondicherry to Chinglapet, with orders to the officer commanding there to introduce them at all events into Cobelong. The English the next day began to erect a battery between the garden and the Fort, at the distance of 300 yards from the walls, and at the same time placed a strong guard on a rock about 100 yards to the left of the battery. The enemy brought many of their guns to bear upon the face of the attack, and fired smartly; whilst it was with the greatest difficulty the English troops could be kept to their posts, both Europeans and Sepoys taking flight on every alarm: an unlucky shot, which struck the rock, and with the splinters it made, killed and wounded fourteen men, frightened the whole so much, that it was some time before they would venture to expose themselves again, and one of the advanced centres was found several hours after concealed in the bottom of a well.

Captain Clive judging that shame would avail more than severity to reclaim them from their cowardice, exposed himself continually to the hottest of the enemy's fire, and his example brought them in two days to do their duty with some firmness. On the third, intelligence was received that the party from Chinglapet were advanced within four miles, on which he immediately marched with half his force to give them battle; but they, on hearing of his approach, retreated with great precipitation. On the fourth at noon, the battery was finished, and just as the English were preparing to fire, to his great surprize, he received a message from the commanding officer, offering to surrender at discretion, on condition that he might carry away his own effects: these terms were immediately accepted, and the English before the evening received into the place, where

1752. where it was found that all the effects of the commandant consisted of a great number of turkies, and a great quantity of snuff, commodities in which he dealt. Besides the cannon mounted on the walls, there were found 50 other pieces of the largest calibres, which proved to be part of the artillery that the company had lost at Madrafs, when taken by Mr. De la Bourdonnais.

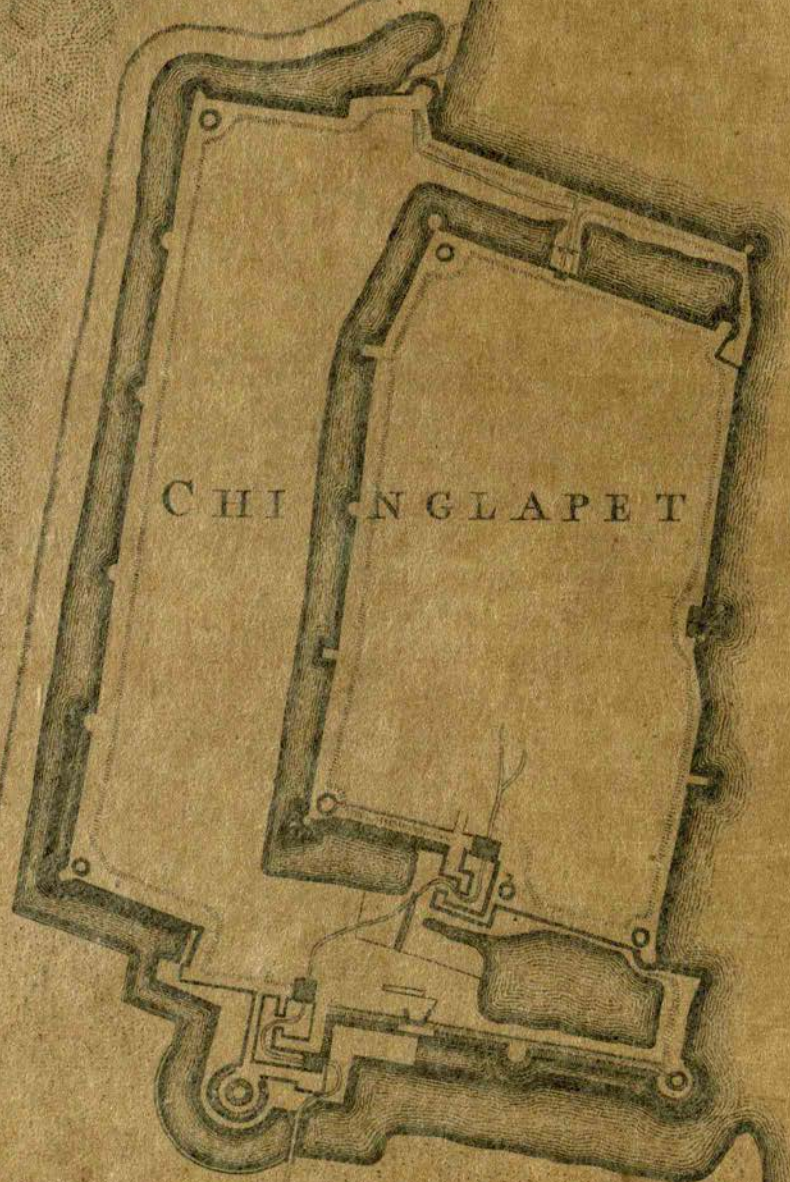
The next morning ensign Joseph Smith, walking out at day break, discovered a large body of troops crossing a small river that runs about half a mile to the west of the Fort, and concluding that they were the reinforcement coming again from Chinglapet, immediately informed captain Clive, who instantly hastened from the fort to join the troops, which ensign Smith had already posted in ambuscade amongst the rocks and underwood, which commanded the high road. Ensign Smith was not deceived in his conjecture; for the commanding officer at Chinglapet having received the day before a letter from the officer at Cobelong, advising him that the place could not hold out 24 hours unless relieved, determined to make an effort more vigorous than the former, and being ignorant of the surrender, intended to surprize the English camp early in the morning. The Nabob's colours were hoisted in the fort, and these being white, skirted with green, were at a distance mistaken by the enemy for their own flag; which confirmed their notion that the place still held out; and they continued to advance with great security, until the whole party were within reach of the troops in ambuscade, who then gave their fire from all sides with great vivacity. It fell heavy, and in a few minutes struck down 100 men; the rest were so terrified that not more than half retained even presence of mind to provide for their safety by flight: the commanding officer, 25 Europeans, and 250 Sepoys, with two pieces of cannon, were taken: those who fled, flinging away their arms, hurried to Chinglapet, where they communicated no small consternation, of which captain Clive determined to take advantage by marching with the utmost expedition against the place.

It is situated 30 miles west of Cobelong, 40 south west of Madrafs, and within half a mile of the northern bank of the river Paliar. The French



CSL

Scale of Yards.
10 20 40 60 80 100 120 140 160



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The Kitchin Scale



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French took possession of it in the beginning of the preceding year, when their troops marched out of Pondicherry with Chunda-saheb to reduce the Arcot province. It was, and not without reason, esteemed by the natives a very strong hold. Its outline, exclusive of some irregular projections at the gateways, is nearly a parallelogram, extending 400 yards from north to south, and 320 from east to west. The eastern, and half the northern side is covered by a continued swamp of rice fields, and the other half of the north, together with the whole of the west side, is defended by a large lake. Inaccessible in these parts, it would have been impregnable, if the south side had been equally secure, but here the ground is high, and gives advantages to an enemy. The Indian engineer, whoever he was, that erected the fort, seems to have exceeded the common reach of his countrymen in the knowledge of his art, not only by the choice of the spot, but also by proportioning the strength of the defences to the advantages and disadvantages of the situation: for the fortifications to the south are much the strongest, those opposite to the rice fields something weaker, and the part that is skirted by the lake is defended only by a slender wall; a deep ditch 60 feet wide, and faced with stone, a fausse-braye, and a stone wall 18 feet high, with round towers on and between the angles, form the defences to the land: nor are these all; for parallel to the south, east and north sides of these outward works, are others of the same kind repeated within them, and these joining to the slender wall which runs to the west along the lake, form a second enclosure or fortification. The garrison consisted of 40 Europeans and 500 Sepoys, and 15 pieces of cannon were mounted in the place.

A battery, consisting of four twenty-four pounders, was raised to the south about 500 yards from the wall, which resisting at this distance longer than was expected, the guns were removed and mounted within 200 yards, and from hence in four days they made a breach through both the outward and inward wall, but still it remained to drain and fill up the ditches, and even after this a much greater number than the besiegers might have been easily repulsed. But the officer, on seeing the English preparing to make approaches to the outward ditch, imagined

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that he had sufficiently asserted the honour of his nation, and hung out the flag to capitulate, offering to give up the place if the garrison were permitted to march away with the honours of war. Captain Clive thinking that the risque of storming a place so capable of making an obstinate resistance, was not to be put in competition with the ideal honour of reducing the garrison to severer terms, immediately complied with the enemy's proposals, who on the 31st of October evacuated the Fort, and marched away to Pondicherry.

A garrison of Europeans and Sepoys, under the command of an English officer, was placed in Chinglapet; and some time after, at the Nabob's request, the fortifications of Cobloug were blown up. The capture of these two places completed the reduction of all the country that remained unsubdued to the north of the river Paliar, between Sadrafs and Arcot.

The health of Captain Clive declining every day after this expedition, induced him not only to quit the field, but also to take the resolution of returning to his native country. He left Madras in the beginning of the next year, universally acknowledged as the man whose example first roused his countrymen from that lethargy of their natural character, into which they were plunged before the siege of Arcot; and who by a train of uninterrupted successes, had contributed more than any other officer, at this time, to raise the reputation of their arms in India.

During these sieges, major Lawrence, accompanied by the Nabob, advanced from Trivadi to Vandewash. This place, situated 20 miles to the north of Gingee, was under the government of Tuckia-saheb, who had, as well as Chunda-saheb, and Mortiz-ally, married one of the sisters of the Nabob, Subderally Khan: the widow of this unfortunate prince, together with his posthumous and only surviving son, called Ally Doast Khan, resided with Tuckia-saheb in the Fort. It was imagined that a place capable of sending forth such pretenders to disturb the title of Mahomed-ally, would have been attacked with the utmost vigour; but the Nabob was in such distress for money, that he preferred to listen to the offers of Tuckia-saheb to ransom his town and
fort



fort from hostilities. Whilst an officer deputed for this purpose was settling the terms, a cannon shot from the fort was by some accident fired into the camp: The Sepoys, vexed at the negotiation, which disappointed their expectations of plunder, seized on this opportunity to break it off, and under pretence of resenting the insult, rushed into the Pettah, and broke open the houses: the poor surprized inhabitants were incapable of making resistance; but it being apprehended that the garrison might sally from the fort, a party of Europeans were sent to support the Sepoys. Tuckia-saheb, ignorant of the cause of this sudden act of violence, imputed it to treachery, and ordered his garrison to fire at the troops they saw in the Pettah. This brought on farther hostilities; the English bombarding the fort with two mortars, and the garrison keeping up a constant fire from their musketry and cannon until morning; when a parly ensued, which explaining matters, the troops were recalled out of the Pettah, and the contribution was settled at 300,000 rupees, which were paid the same day.

The Morattoes during this expedition were continually roaming for plunder, which they took indifferently, as well in the countries acknowledging the Nabob as in the districts of disaffected chiefs; at the same time that they were doing this mischief, they expected to be paid, only because they had it in their power to do more by openly joining his enemies.

The army returned from Vandewash to Trivadi, where they prepared to canton themselves during the rainy monsoon, which began on the 31st of October at night, with the most violent hurricane that had been remembered on the coast; the rain that fell continually for several days after laid the whole country under water, and spread such a sickness amongst the troops, as obliged them, on the 15th of November, to retire to fort St. David; which place affording quarters only for the English, most of the Nabob's men, unaccustomed to remain in the field in this inclement season, left him, and went to their homes.

By this time the regent at Seringham, perceiving that the Nabob and the English had made so little advantage of their success at Bahoor, recovered from the consternation he had been struck with by that event; and he no sooner heard that they had returned into winter quarters, than



268. he sent away Morari-row, with all his Morattoes excepting 500, to Pondicherry; and Innis Khan, with those under his command, quitted the Nabob at Trivadi in the beginning of November, but not without having got some of the money received at Vandewash. Mr. Dupleix promised to send some Europeans to Seringham, and the regent hoping to divert the garrison of Trichinopoly from making any attempt against him before they arrived, pretended that he had no design to make war with the Nabob, and that Morari-row had left him in consequence of a dispute that had arisen on settling their accounts; but notwithstanding this declaration, his patrols of horse stopped and carried to his camp all the provisions that were coming to the city: the effects of this hostility were soon felt; and the presidency of Madras, who in consideration of his pretensions to Trichinopoly, had hitherto declined to take revenge of his treacherous attempts to get possession of it, now thought it time to treat him as a declared enemy.

In consequence of this resolution, captain Dalton on the 23d of December marched out of the City at ten o'Clock at night, with the greatest part of the Europeans and Sepoys, to beat up his camp, which extended under the northern wall of Seringham; but the regent himself with a considerable guard remained within the pagoda. An artillery officer with three pieces of cannon was previously posted on the southern bank of the Caveri, opposite the pagoda, with orders to create what alarm he could by throwing shot into the place, as soon as he should hear the fire of the musketry in the camp: the troops passed the Caveri at Chuckley-apollam, and then crossing the island marched along the bank of the Coleroon, until they came within a quarter of a mile of the enemy's camp, when they halted in order to refresh themselves, and to form for the attack: but on the review it was found that no less than 500 of the Sepoys were absent, having, as they afterwards affirmed, inadvertently missed the line of march in the dark; however the rest not appearing discouraged, it was determined to proceed: they were divided into two bodies, they first marched only four in front, being designed to penetrate through the camp, firing two to the right, and two to the left; whilst the other, drawn up in a
more



more compact manner, were ordered to halt as soon as they came amongst the tents, and there remain as a support to the first party; who moving on, found the enemy's advanced guard fast asleep, and stabbing them with their bayonets, entered the camp without opposition, and to the right and left began a brisk fire from front to rear. The alarm was instantly spread, and produced such consternation, that nothing was heard but the shrieks of men wounded, and the outcries of others warning their friends to fly from the danger. The enemy, according to their senseless custom, raised a number of blue lights in the air, in order to discover the motions of the column, but these lights served much better to direct the fire against themselves; in the mean time those within the pagoda manned the walls, but refrained from firing for fear of killing their own people in the camp, who in less than an hour were totally dispersed; and if the English had brought with them a petard, they would probably have forced into the pagoda, and have finished the war by securing the person of the regent. Every thing being now quiet, the Sepoys were permitted to take as many horses as they could conveniently lead away; and marching foremost out of the camp, were followed by the Europeans in good order; but by this time, the Myforeans within the pagoda, finding by the extinction of the lights, that none of their own army remained within reach, began to fire smartly from the walls, and killed and wounded 20 men, of whom seven were Europeans.

The troops reached the city by day break, when they discovered the enemy returning to the island, who immediately struck all their tents, and retired into the pagoda. This sufficiently shewed their panic; but nevertheless it was evident that their continuance in the neighbourhood would prevent the inhabitants from bringing in provisions, of which they began already to feel the want; captain Dalton therefore determined to bombard the pagoda, not doubting, that if he could drive the enemy out of it, their fears would deter them from encamping again within a night's march. With this view he sent half his force the following night across the river, and dislodged them from a great choultry that stands by the



1752. the water side, directly opposite to the south-gate of Seringham; the building was 100 feet square, and 30 high; a great number of Cooleys were immediately set to work, and before morning they inclosed the choultry with a strong entrenchment, and likewise made a parapet with sand bags round the roof, on which two field pieces were mounted. As it was not doubted that the enemy would make an effort to recover a post so capable of molesting them, captain Dalton determined to support it with the rest of his force: the bed of the Caveri having at this time little or no water, he took post against the choultry, on the southern bank of the river; where a little wall served the party as a parapet; they had with them four field pieces, which might easily flank the choultry, as the river in this part was only 400 yards wide: the enemy remained quiet till noon, when having sufficiently intoxicated themselves with opium, they began to swarm out in great numbers: but the field pieces kept them for some time at a distance, every shot doing execution. During the cannonade a party of the Nabob's Sepoys crossed the river, and taking possession of a small choultry at a little distance to the right of the other, began to fire from this untenable post; upon which a body of 300 Morattoe horse galloped up to attack them, but before they arrived the Sepoys took flight; several of them were cut to pieces, and the rest recrossing the river, ran into the city; the Morattoes, encouraged by this success, now galloped up towards the entrenchment of the great choultry, where they were suffered to come so near, that several of them made use of their sabres across the parapet before the troops within gave fire, which then began, and seconded by that of the four pieces of cannon on the other side of the river, killed and wounded a great number of men and horses, and obliged the enemy to retire in confusion: in this instant an officer unadvisedly took the resolution of quitting his post, and passed the river, in order to give captain Dalton some information concerning the artillery: some of the soldiers seeing this, imagined that he went away through fear, and concluding that things were worse than appeared to them, followed his example, and ran out of the entrenchment; which the rest perceiving, a panic seized the whole, and they left the post with the greatest precipitation, notwithstanding



withstanding they had the minute before given three huzza's, on the retreat of the Morattoes: a body of 3000 Mysore horse, who were drawn up on the bank, immediately galloped into the bed of the river, and charging the fugitives with fury, cut down the whole party excepting 15 men: flushed with this success, they made a push at captain Dalton's division on the other side. All these motions succeeded one another so rapidly, that he had hardly time to put his men on their guard; more especially as many of them had caught the panic, from having been spectators of the massacre of their comrades: however some of the bravest hearkening to his exhortations stood firm by the artillery; their behaviour encouraged the Sepoys, who made a strong fire from behind the little wall in their front, which, accompanied by the grape-shot of the four field pieces, soon abated the ardour of the enemy, and obliged them to retreat, leaving some horses, whose riders fell within 20 yards of the muzzles of the guns: captain Dalton then advanced a little way into the bed of the river, where he remained until he had collected the dead and wounded. Not a man who escaped could give any reason why he quitted his post, all of them acknowledging that at the time when they took flight only one man in the entrenchment was wounded, and that they had nine barrels of ammunition.

This disaster diminished the strength of the garrison near one half, not by the number, but the quality of the troops that were lost; for the killed and disabled were 70 Europeans, and 300 of the best Sepoys, together with the Lieutenants Wilkey and Crow; who having endeavoured in vain to rally the men, gallantly determined to stay in the intrenchment, where they were cut to pieces. No farther hopes therefore remained of driving the regent out of Seringham; on the contrary, it became necessary for the garrison, thus lessened, to give their whole attention to the security of the city; and all negotiations between the Nabob and the regent being at an end, captain Dalton turned out the 700 Mysoreans, suffering them to retire peaceably with their arms and baggage: but he detained their commander Gopaulrauze, the regent's brother, permitting him however to keep such domesticks as he thought proper.

But



1752. But lest the enemy should imagine that he was totally dispirited, if he should remain inactive, captain Dalton determined to make some attempt, which, at the same time that it might be executed without much risque, might make them believe he was still in a capacity to act in the field. They had a post about four miles west of Trichinopoly, at a pagoda called Velore, where the guard prevented the country people from carrying provisions into the city. The pagoda had a strong stone wall, and they had choaked up the great gate with mud, leaving at the bottom a wicket, by which only one man could enter at a time, and this they carefully shut every evening: 30 Europeans marched in a dark night, and having concealed themselves in a watercourse near the gate, a serjeant of artillery, carrying a barrel of gun powder with a long sausage to it, went forward, and, digging, placed the barrel under the wicket unobserved, although the centinel was sitting at the top of the gate singing a moorish song: the explosion not only brought down the mud-work, but also blew up the terrace of the gateway, with the guard asleep on it, so that the soldiers entered immediately without difficulty, and having fresh in their memory the loss of their comrades at the choultry, put all the Mysoreans they met to the sword.

The regent, convinced by this exploit that famine would be the surest means of reducing the garrison, ordered a party of 200 horse to lie on the plain every night, between the city and the country of the Polygar Tondeman, from whence alone provisions were obtained: they seized some of the people bringing in rice, and according to their barbarous custom, cut off their noses, and sent them thus mangled to Trichinopoly. This cruelty struck such a terror, that for some days no one would venture to bring in supplies: in order therefore to dislodge this detachment, 400 men, Sepoys and Europeans, with two field pieces, marched in the evening and took possession of the ground where they used to pass the night; the enemy coming up some time after, did not discover their danger before they received the fire of the troops, which immediately put them to flight, and by their outcries it was imagined they suffered considerably.



Whatever might be their loss, the surprize struck such a terror, that no more small detachments could be prevailed on to remain within reach of the garrison during the dark nights; and their refusal suggested to the regent the resolution of dividing his force, and of forming a considerable camp between the city and Tondeman's country, whilst he remained with the rest at Seringham. A multitude of people set to the work finished in a few days an entrenchment, with a stout mud wall, at a place called Facquire's *Tope*, or the grove of the Facquire, situated four miles to the south, and one to the west of the city; after which 5000 horse and 3000 foot, being nearly one half of the army, and the best troops in it, moved from the island with their baggage, and pitched their tents within this fortification. The effect of this disposition was soon severely felt; no more grain was brought to the market, the shops were shut, and the inhabitants began to cry famine, whilst the garrison had the mortification to perceive themselves incapable of removing the distress, being, since the loss at the choultry, too weak to cope with the enemy, in either of their camps.

1752.

Such was the situation of affairs at Trichinopoly at the end of March 1753. In the mean time the junction of the Morattoes enabled Mr. Dupleix to make head against the Nabob in the Carnatic, and he had likewise received the satisfaction of hearing that his ally Salabad-jing had removed a most dangerous competitor for the Soubaship, by the murder of his brother Gazi-o-din Khan.

1753.

This prince having long sent before him many threats and rumours of his approach to the Decan, at length marched from Delhi; and in the beginning of October 1752, appeared before Aurengabad at the head of 150,000 men: at the same time, and by his instigation, Balagerow and Ragogi Bonfola entered the province of Golcondah, with 100,000 Morattoes. Balagerow is known; and Ragogi Bonfola we have seen invading the Carnatic in 1740, ten years before which he had made conquests and established the Morattoe dominion in some parts of the province of Berar, from whence he invaded Bengal in 1744. Salabad-jing and Mr. Bussy were at Golcondah when they received intelligence of the approach of these armies, and immediately took the field with their utmost force, and at Beder, a very strong fortress 60 miles north-west



1753-

of Golcondah, were met by the Morattoes. Mean while Ghazi-o-din Khan entered Aurengabad without opposition. He had brought with him from Delhi a French surgeon named De Volton, who had long been principal physician to the Great Mogul. This man, Ghazi-o-din Khan sent forward to Pondicherry, as an envoy empowered by the Great Mogul to offer Mr. Dupleix many advantages, if he would withdraw the French troops from the service of Salabad-jing: and as a proof of this commission, De Volton was furnished with a blank paper, to which the great seal of the empire was affixed. Salabad-jing receiving intelligence of these intentions, set about to frustrate them by a method which could not fail of success, as it could not naturally be suspected; for he prevailed on his mother, who was at Aurengabad, to poison her son, his brother; which she effected by sending him a plate of victuals, prepared, as she too truly assured him, with her own hands. On his death the greatest part of his army returned to their homes; but some joined the Morattoes at Beder.

Whatsoever apprehensions Salabad-jing might have, that Sche-abadin the son of Ghazi-o-din Khan at Delhi, would obtain the Soubahship of the Decan, and revenge the murder of his father; he affected to fear nothing from him, either as an enemy or a competitor; and asserting with more confidence than ever, that he himself was the real Soubah, sent, immediately on Ghazi-o-din Khan's death, an ambassador of his own to Pondicherry, who pretended to come from the great Mogul, with a patent, as Salabad-jing had promised, confirming Mr. Dupleix Nabob of the countries to the south of the Krishna. The man was received with great pomp and respect, and the patent published throughout the province with much ostentation.

But still this title, specious as it might be, furnished Mr. Dupleix with no money, which in the wars of Indostan is of more service than any title whatsoever; for the revenues which Salabad-jing received at Aurengabad were continually exhausted by the great army he was obliged to maintain, and the charge of Mr. Buffy's troops alone amounted to 400,000 pounds a year. The distress was as great at Pondicherry; for although many chiefs in the Carnatic had without compulsion contributed to support the cause of Chunda-sahab during his life, their zeal ceased at his death, from their sense of the incapacity of his son

Raja-



Raja-sahib, little qualified to prosecute a contest in which a man of his father's abilities had perished: and in this time of anarchy and confusion, whilst the authority of no one extended farther than his sword could reach, every chief reserved for himself whatever revenues he could collect. So that notwithstanding Mr. Dupleix's title was acknowledged by all who did not wish well to Mahomed-ally, his power was confined to the districts which lie between Pondicherry and Gingee, and these did not furnish more than 50,000 pounds a year: at the same time the French company, misled by his representations, sent out no more money than was necessary for their commerce, and with positive orders that it should not be employed to any other purpose. These disadvantages would probably have reduced the French to cease hostilities after the capture at Seringham, had not Mr. Dupleix been endowed (and this at least is much to his honour) with a perseverance, that even superseded his regard to his own fortune, of which he had at that time disbursed 140,000 pounds, and he continued with the same spirit to furnish more; but as this resource could not last long, and as the slender capacity of Raja-sahib rendered him rather a burthen than a support to the cause, he determined to make him relinquish the title of Nabob, and to give it to some other person, from whose wealth, ability, and connexion, he might reasonably expect considerable resources for carrying on the war. The man he pitched upon was Mortiz-ally Khan of Velore, to whom he displayed all the commissions he had received from Salabat-jing, and discovered the state of his negotiations with the Morattoes, and Mysoreans. The Phouddar, sensible that there could not be much risk in taking part with such an apparent superiority, accepted the proposal, levied troops, and resolved to go to Pondicherry, as soon as the journey might be undertaken without danger. In the mean time 50 Europeans were sent from Pondicherry to Velore, and with their assistance he formed a conspiracy with the French prisoners in the fort of Arcot, who were to rise and overpower the English garrison, which they greatly outnumbered; but a suspicion of this treachery was luckily entertained in time to prevent the success of it, and the prisoners were removed in the latter end of December to Chinglapett. Thus ended the year 1752 in the Carnatic.



1753.

On the 3d of January 1753, the French, consisting of 500 Europeans, and a troop of 60 horse, together with 2000 Sepoys, and 4000 Morattoes under the command of Morari-row, marched from Val-dore, and entrenched on the banks of the river Paniar, in sight of Trivadi: upon which Major Lawrence, with the Nabob, returned from fort St. David to their former encampment at that place. Their force consisted of 700 Europeans, 2000 Sepoys, and 1500 dastardly horse belonging to the Nabob. On the 9th the Morattoes, supported by two companies of Topassies in their own pay, advanced with three field pieces, and began to cannonade the village of Trivadi. The battalion was immediately under arms, and the grenadiers, with some Sepoys, were ordered to attack their guns, which they got possession of before the enemy had time to fire a second round: the Morattoes still remaining on the plain, Major Lawrence followed them two miles towards their camp, and having as he thought sufficiently dispersed them with his field pieces, prepared to return, when they came galloping up again furiously on all sides, and surrounded him. The soldiers preserved their fire till every shot did execution, and the artillery men behaving with the same calmness and resolution soon beat them off, with the loss of 100 men killed. Morari-row on his return to camp reproached the French for their cowardice, in not having supported him in the manner that had been concerted between them. He continued however with great activity to distress their enemies, by sending out parties, which prevented the country people from bringing provisions to the camp; and this obliged Major Lawrence, when in want, to march with his whole force, and escort his supplies from fort St. David. These marches were excessively fatiguing, and might have been dangerous, had the French behaved with the same activity and spirit as the Morattoes, who never failed to be on the road harassing, and sometimes charging, the line of march: on the 28th of January, in particular, they accompanied the battalion the whole way from Trivadi to Fort St. David: but dispirited by the loss of 300 of their horses, which were killed by the field pieces in the different skirmishes of the day, they did not venture to attack the troops as they were returning to the camp with the convoy.



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Supported as the French were by this excellent cavalry, they might without much risque have ventured a general engagement; but Mr. Dupleix, whose eye was always on Trichinopoly, determined to protract the war on the sea coast as long as possible, that the Mysoreans might not be interrupted from blockading the city. He therefore ordered his troops on the Pannar to act intirely on the defensive, and to strengthen their entrenchments; which, with the usual dexterity of that nation in works of this kind, were soon compleated and rendered little inferior to the defences of a regular fortrefs. The English presidency, sensible of the great risque of storming such works without a sufficient body of horse to cover the flanks of their infantry during the attack, solicited the king of Tanjore to send his cavalry to their assistance: he promised fair, and a detachment of Europeans with two field pieces marched from Trivadi to favour the junction; but they had not proceeded far, before they heard that the king had recalled his troops to the capital, on a report that the Morattoes intended to enter his country.

Disappointed of this assistance, Major Lawrence was obliged to remain inactive in his camp, contemplating every day the situation of the enemy, which he had in sight, and fretting at his incapacity to attack them. The Morattoes in the mean time were not idle; their parties were seen now at Trinomalee, then at Arcot, then at Chillambrum, that is, in every part of the province between the river Paliar, and the Coleroon. In the middle of February, one of their detachments appeared, flourishing their sabres, and caracolling within musket shot of Chemundelum, the western redoubt of the bound-hedge of St. David: their insolence irritated the guard, and the serjeant, a brave but blundering man, thinking this an opportunity of distinguishing himself and of getting promotion, marched into the plain with his whole force, 25 Europeans, and 50 Sepoys. The enemy retreated, until the party was advanced half a mile from the redoubt; when they turned on a sudden, and galloping up surrounded them in an instant; the serjeant, not doubting that the first fire would disperse them, gave it in a general volley, which did some execution; but before the



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the troops could load again, the Morattoes charged them impetuously sword in hand, broke the rank, and every horseman singling out a particular man, cut them all to pieces. Inactivity or retreat in war is never in Indostan imputed to prudence or stratagem, and the side which ceases to gain successes is generally supposed to be on the brink of ruin. Such were the notions entertained of the army at Trivadi, and they were industriously propagated by Mr. Dupleix, in order to encourage his new ally Mortiz-ally to set up his standard in the province. The Phoufdar with his usual caution first encamped without Velore, then advanced somewhat farther, and at last, assured by the Morattoes that they would cover his march, ventured to proceed to Pondicherry, where, on furnishing 50,000 pounds for the expences of the war, he was with great ceremony and publick rejoicings proclaimed Nabob of the Carnatic.

But the satisfaction he might receive from this exaltation did not last long. It was proposed that he should begin by imitating the conduct of Chunda-saheb, and appear at the head of the army: this his nature abhorred. On settling the terms of his regency, so much assistance in money and troops was expected from him, and so little power or advantage offered in return, that he found the nabobship held on such conditions, would be of less value than the independant possession of his government of Velore. At the same time suspecting what he himself would infallibly have done in a similar case, he was terrified with the notion that Mr. Dupleix would keep him a prisoner at Pondicherry, if he discovered his aversion to have any farther connexion with him: these sentiments did not escape the sagacity of Mr. Dupleix; but he had too much good sense, not to see that such a breach of faith would probably determine the enemies of Mahomed-ally to make their peace on any terms with that prince. He therefore consented to Mortiz-ally's return, who promising to make war in the country about Arcot, left Pondicherry in the end of March, convinced for the first time in his life, that he had met with a more cunning man than himself.

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In the mean time, no military operations passed, excepting the skirmishes of the Morattoes with the English battalion, during three or four marches, which they were obliged to make, in order to escort their provisions from fort St. David. The French were not to be inticed out of their intrenchments; and Major Lawrence, seeing no other method of striking a decisive blow, determined to storm their camp. The presidency seconded this resolution, by sending 200 Europeans, of which 100 were a company of Swifs lately arrived from Bengal, to fort St. David; where the battalion joined them; and the whole, with a large convoy of provisions, set out for the camp, on the first of April. The whole body of the Morattoes were waiting for them in sight of the bound-hedge; and behaved this day with more activity than ever, rarely removing out of cannon shot, and galloping up whenever the incumbrances of the baggage disunited the line of march, and left intervals open to their attacks. Thus continually threatned, and often assaulted, the convoy advanced very slowly. The weather was excessive hot, and several men fell dead with the heat, fatigue, and the want of water. When within three miles of Trivadi, the Morattoes made a general and vigorous charge, surrounding the front of the line, and were with difficulty repulsed; many of their horses fell within a few yards of the field pieces, and amongst the slain was Bazinrow, Morari-row's nephew, the same who came to captain Clive's assistance, after the siege of Arcot. His death damped their ardour, and they retreated to a distance. But the work of the day was not yet over; for the troops continuing their march, discovered within a mile of Trivadi, the French troops and Sepoys drawn up on their right: the convoy happened luckily to march on the left along the bank of the river Gandelu. The two battalions advanced against each other cannonading, until the French coming to a hollow-way, halted on the opposite side, imagining that the English would not venture to pass it under the disadvantage of being exposed to their fire; but Major Lawrence ordered the Sepoys and artillery to halt and defend the convoy against the Morattoes, still hovering about, and pushed on briskly with the main body of Europeans across the hollow way: the enemy, who expected to find the English fatigued with a long and



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and harrassing march, were so startled at the vivacity of this motion, that they only stayed to give one fire, and then ran away with the utmost precipitation, leaving the English to finish their march without farther molestation. As soon as the troops were recovered from their fatigue, Major Lawrence approached nearer the enemy's camp, within a mile of which they had an advanced party, at the village of Caryamongalum; the grenadiers and 100 men of the battalion were ordered to attack this post, and soon got possession of it; after which a battery of two eighteen pounders was erected against their entrenchments, at the distance of 700 yards: it was not before this time that the English perfectly discovered the strength of their works, which consisted of a parapet cannon proof, with redoubts at proper distances, a broad and deep ditch, and a good glacis, defended by 30 pieces of cannon. The battery fired for some time, but made no impression, and the difficulty of getting provisions increasing with the distance from St. David, it was thought proper to desist from the attempt, and the army returned to Trivadi.

In the mean time, the Morattoes were indefatigable, and being joined by a small party from Pondicherry, surprized a fort near Chillambrum, called Bonagerry, from whence fort St. David drew large supplies of grain: captain Kilpatrick marched with a detachment to retake the place; and upon his approach they abandoned it in the night.

Three months ineffectually employed to bring the enemy to a general engagement, convinced Major Lawrence of the necessity of altering his plan of operations. He consulted with the Nabob on removing the war to some other part of the country, in order to draw the French battalion from their present impregnable situation; but it was not easy to determine where they should carry their arms; and whilst they were deliberating on the choice, sudden and unexpected news from Trichinopoly resolved the difficulty, and left them without an option.

Captain Dalton, foreseeing the distresses to which the city would be reduced after the defeat of his party at the Choulury, had often questioned Kiroodin Khan the governor, on the quantity of provisions he had in store; who always assured him with great confidence that he had sufficient to supply the garrison for four months. For some time



time the small convoys, which got into the city in spite of the enemy's patrols, balanced the daily consumption made out of the magazines; but as soon as the Myforean divided his army into two camps, all supplies were cut off, and a party of Sepoys, which had been sent into Tondeman's country, were not able to get back. In this situation captain Dalton insisted on examining the magazines, when to his great surprise Kiroodin Khan informed him that he had taken advantage of the scarcity, to sell out the provisions to the inhabitants at a high price, not doubting but that opportunities of replacing them would offer, and acknowledged that the stock remaining was no more than sufficient for 15 days: in which time the army at Trivadi could hardly receive the news, and march to the relief of the city. Expostulations were vain, for the mischief was real; an express was therefore sent with this alarming intelligence to Major Lawrence, who received it at ten at night the 20th of April, and instantly issued orders for the troops to be in readiness to march by day break; when, leaving a garrison of 150 Europeans, and 500 Sepoys, at Trivadi, the rest proceeded to Fort St. David, in order to collect the necessary supplies of military stores.

The want of horse having hitherto been the principal obstacle to the progress of the Nabob's affairs, it was determined to apply again to the king of Tanjore, and in order to encourage, or if necessary to awe him into a compliance, it was resolved to proceed to Tritchinopoly, through his dominions. The army on the 22d of April passed by Chillambrum, and as soon as they crossed the Coleroon, the king deputed Succojee, his prime minister, to compliment the Nabob and Major Lawrence; and when they were arrived at Condoor, ten miles from the capital, he desired an interview, and met them half way at one of his gardens, where he appeared in great splendor, accompanied by 3000 horse, and 200 elephants in rich trappings. Seeming to be convinced that it was his own interest to support the Nabob, he gave orders to his horse to proceed with him to Tritchinopoly; but the next day, after marching a few miles, they left the army, promising, however to return very soon.



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joined the rest of the Mysoreans at Seringham, and the country people ventured again to bring provisions into the city.

On the 6th of May, the major arrived in sight of Tritchinopoly, and entered the city without meeting any interruption; for none of the Mysoreans presumed to appear on the plain: the number of the battalion was greatly diminished during the march, which was performed at the setting in of the land winds, when they blow with the greatest heat and violence; besides several who died on the road, and others who were sent back sick to fort St. David, and Devi Cotah, 100 men unfit for duty were carried into the hospital at Tritchinopoly on the day of their arrival: many had likewise deserted; particularly of the Swiss, of whom a serjeant and 15 men went off in one day: so that the whole, including what the garrison of Tritchinopoly could spare for the field, amounted, when mustered, to no more than 500 Europeans, who with 2000 Sepoys, and 3000 horse in the Nabob's service, composed the army.

As soon as Mr. Dupleix was certain what rout they had taken, he detached 200 Europeans, and 500 Sepoys, with four field pieces, from the camp near Trivadi; who marching by the road of Verdachellum, Volkondah and Utatoor, joined the Mysoreans at Seringham, the day after the English arrived at Tritchinopoly.

Major Lawrence having allowed the men three days to refresh themselves, determined on the 10th of May to pass over into the island, and offer the enemy battle, which if they declined, he resolved to bombard Seringham, and cannonade their camp: the Nabob's cavalry, discontented for want of pay, refused to take any share in the action. The battalion and Sepoys therefore proceeded without them, and setting out at three in the morning in two divisions, arrived at six at Moota Chellinoor, a village four miles west of the city, over against the head of the island. A large body of horse and foot, drawn up on the opposite side, seemed determined to defend the pass, but were soon dispersed by the first division, and whilst the second was crossing they retreated towards the pagoda, from whence the Mysoreans no sooner discovered the English forming on the island, than they swarmed out in great numbers,



and their cavalry, led by the Morattoes under the command of Harrasing, came galloping up at a great rate, and making a resolute charge on the left of the line, where a body of Sepoys were posted, broke through them sword in hand; but the Sepoys seeing three platoons of Europeans advancing to their support, behaved with spirit, and recovering their ground, kept up a smart fire, which after a severe slaughter repulsed the cavalry, who made a most precipitate retreat towards the pagoda, exposed to the fire of ten pieces of cannon, eight of which were field pieces which accompanied the troops, and two eighteen pounders which captain Dalton had sent to the bank of the river. By this time Mr. Astruc, with the French troops and Sepoys marched up, and lodging the greatest part of them in a water course, where they were effectually sheltered, placed his cannon, four field pieces, on an eminence, from whence they made a brisk fire. They were answered by the English artillery; but as it was not thought prudent to make a push at the water course, at the risque of being fallen upon by such numbers of cavalry as covered the plain, Major Lawrence, to preserve his main body from the enemy's cannonade, ordered them to take shelter behind a bank, so that the fight was maintained only by the artillery until noon, when a party of the enemy's Sepoys, with some Topasses, took possession of a large choultry to the left of the English line, which they began to incommode with the fire of their musketry; upon this the company of grenadiers, with a detachment of Swiss under the command of Captain Polier, were ordered to dislodge the Sepoys; which service the grenadiers effected with great resolution; and, animated by their success, pursued the fugitives until they insensibly gained the flank of the water course, where the main body of the French troops was concealed. These, on seeing the danger which threatened them, prepared to retreat, and were actually on the point of abandoning two of their field pieces, when captain Polier, who remained with the Swiss at the choultry, and from thence could not see the enemy's confusion, sent orders for the grenadiers to return. Thus was lost one of those critical moments, on which the greatest advantages in war so often depend; but without
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any disparagement to the reputation of Polier, whose orders directing him only to dislodge the enemy from the choultry, he would have been culpable, had he pushed his success farther without a subsequent order; which the Major had no reason to send, as from the situation he was in, he could not discover the distress of the enemy. On the retreat of the grenadiers, the French again took possession of the water-course, and renewed the canonade, which lasted till the evening, when the want of provisions, as well as the excessive fatigue which the English troops had undergone, obliged them to repass the river, and return to Tritchanopoly; where they arrived at 10 at night, having without intermission been employed 20 hours either in march or action. The loss they sustained was much less than might have been expected, from the fire to which they had been exposed; for only three officers were wounded, and two with four private men and a few Sepoys killed.

The operations of this day shewed that the French troops were commanded by an abler officer than any who had yet appeared at their head; and little hopes remaining of dislodging the Mysoreans from the pagado, Major Lawrence gave his whole attention to the means of supplying the city with provisions. For this purpose the army marched into the plain, and encamped at Facquire's Tope, within the intrenchment which Virana the Mysore general had lately abandoned, where they lay conveniently for protecting the convoys coming from Tondeman's country; proper agents, supported by a detachment of troops, were sent to purchase grain, and at the same time the King of Tanjore was requested to collect and send supplies. But the Mysorean was not wanting to counteract these measures; he kept an agent both at Tanjore, and with Tondeman, who represented, that if Tritchinopoly should once be provided with a considerable stock of provisions, it was not to be doubted but that the Nabob and the English would immediately carry their arms again into the Carnatic, leaving their allies exposed to the just resentment of the regent, who would not fail to take the severest revenge for the service they had rendered his enemies. This reasoning was well adapted to the genius of those to whom it was addressed; for the

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the Indians, never influenced by the principle of gratitude themselves, do not expect to meet with it in others; and accustomed, after they have gained their ends, to pay no regard to the promises they have made, they gave little credit to major Lawrence when he assured them that he would never remove from Trichinopoly, before he had provided for the safety of their countries. Nor did the Mysorean neglect to employ the resource of money to alienate these precarious allies: in Tondeman's country he bribed the chiefs and officers of such districts as lay convenient for furnishing provisions; and at Tanjore gained over to his interest the prime minister Succojee, who intirely ruled the King his master; however the King, not wholly unsollicitous of the consequences, if the English fortune should change again, palliated his refusal with specious pretexts, and wrote to the presidency that the enemy's detachments had already done mischief to the amount of 100,000 pounds in his country, where the harvest was now coming on, but that as soon as it was gathered he would not fail to give them all the assistance in his power: this pretended mischief was no more than what all other parts of the country had suffered from the Morattoes, who in their predatory excursions made no distinction between the territories of friends and foes.

Thus, notwithstanding no prudent measure was neglected, the supplies received were so far from being sufficient to stock the magazines, that it was with difficulty enough was procured for the immediate consumption of the army and garrison. In this situation major Lawrence was obliged to remain for five weeks, without having an opportunity of acting against the enemy, who determined not to expose themselves, until they were reinforced from the sea coast.

The French troops in this part of the country quitted their entrenchments on the same day that the major marched from fort St. David, and a detachment of 200 Europeans, with 300 Sepoys, attacked the village of Trivadi; but captain Chace, the commanding officer, sallying from the fort, repulsed them: some days after they renewed the attack, and were again repulsed by a detachment of 60 Europeans, and 300 Sepoys; who, elated with their success, quitted the village



village, and contrary to their orders marched out into the plain: the Morattoes, who were in fight, waiting for such an opportunity of exerting themselves, instantly surrounded the party, and charging with great fury, routed them, and cut every man to pieces. This loss disabling the garrison from making any more sallies, the French took possession of the village, erected a battery, and cannonaded the fort. The troops within were still sufficient to have made a good defence; but a mutiny arose, and the lenity of the commanding officer's temper, not permitting him to see the necessity of making severe examples in the beginning, the men, no longer controulable, got possession of the arrack, and mad with liquor, obliged him to capitulate, and were made prisoners of war: this misfortune affected captain Chace so sensibly, that it threw him into a fever, of which he died soon after at Pondicherry. At the same time a detachment of Morattoes, with some Europeans, appeared before Chillambrum, where the English kept a serjeant with a few artillery-men; who discovering that the governor was plotting to deliver them up to the enemy, marched away in the night to Devi Cotah. Nor was the loss of these places and their dependancies the only detriment which the Nabob's affairs had sustained in the Carnatic; for a number of petty commanders, soldiers of fortune, set up their standards, and pretending to be authorized by Mr. Dupleix and Morari-row, levied contributions and committed violences in all parts of the country. Even Mortiz-ally hearing soon after his return to Velore that the English did not venture to attack the French intrenchments at Trivadi, and that Trichinopoly was hard pressed by the Mylloreans, took courage, and entertaining thoughts of asserting the title which Mr. Dupleix had conferred upon him, ordered his troops to commit hostilities in the neighbourhood near Arcot. His force consisted of 50 Europeans, with three pieces of cannon, who accompanied him from Pondicherry, and 2000 Sepoys; 1500 horse, and 500 matchlock Peans, his own troops. They plundered all the villages lying near the city without meeting any interruption; for Abdullwahab Khan, the Nabob's brother, and lieutenant in the province, an indolent sensual man, dissipated in his pleasures and upon his favourites most of the monies he collected, and gave no attention

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attention to the maintaining of a competent force to support his authority: encouraged by this negligence, Mortiz-ally threatened to attack the city of Arcot itself, of which the presidency receiving intelligence, directed the commanding officer of the fort to join the Nabob's troops with as many Europeans as could prudently be spared from the garrison, and attack the enemy in the field. Abdullwahab, alarmed for his own security, with some difficulty got together 800 Sepoys, 1000 horse and 500 Peans, all of them the very worst troops in the province; they were commanded by another of the Nabob's brothers Nazeabulla, a man nearly of the same character as Abdullwahab. This force, joined by 40 Europeans, 200 English Sepoys, with two field pieces under the command of ensign Joseph Smith, marched out of the city on the 21st of April, and when half-way to Velore discovered the Phousdar's army drawn up across the road, their right sheltered by the hills. It was with great reluctance that Nazeabulla Khan could be prevailed upon to attack them, although it was evident they would fall on him, as soon as he offered to retreat: ensign Smith began a cannonade, and drove the French several times from their guns, but a party of 500 excellent Sepoys maintained themselves with much more resolution behind a bank, and in several attempts that were made to drive them from it, most of the English Sepoys were lost. The enemy's cavalry seeing this, attacked the Europeans, but were repulsed by the grape shot; on which they pushed at Nazeabulla's cavalry, who took flight without waiting the onset, and soon after his Sepoys and Peans went off likewise, leaving the Europeans, now reduced to 25 men, with about 40 Sepoys, surrounded by the enemy. Ensign Smith however kept his ground until night, when his men leaving the field pieces behind, endeavoured, as they could, to get back to the city; but they were discovered, and all, excepting three, were intercepted; some were killed, and the rest, amongst whom was ensign Smith, were made prisoners and carried to Velore. Flushed by this success, Mortiz-ally renewed his correspondence with Mr. Dupleix, and undertook to besiege Trinomalee, a strong fort situated about 40 miles south of Arcot, in the high road to Trichinopoly, and Morari-row moved from Chillambrum to assist in the expedition. But Mr. Dupleix thinking it of more importance