

*Just published in 2 vols. demy 8vo. Price 36s. bound in cloth,
and embellished with nearly one hundred illustrative Maps and Plates.*

MILITARY REMINISCENCES;

EXTRACTED FROM

A JOURNAL

OF NEARLY

FORTY YEARS' ACTIVE SERVICE

IN THE

EAST INDIES.

BY COLONEL JAMES WELSH,

OF THE MADRAS ESTABLISHMENT.



"The battles, sieges, fortunes, I have pass'd,
E'en from my boyish days."

LONDON:

SMITH, ELDER, AND CO., CORNHILL.

MDCCCXXX.

TESTIMONIALS

TO COLONEL WELSH'S REMINISCENCES.

The following extracts of critical notices sufficiently evidence the very high estimation attached to Colonel Welsh's work, by the different Reviews, &c.

"This is a very various and agreeable publication, displaying much acuteness, good sense, and good feeling; the author speaks, it is true, as a plain soldier; but his general views are discriminating, and his local descriptions and remarks at once concise and sufficient.

"The forty years' experience of a clever, observant, and sensible man, who has seen service in, and traversed almost every part of our vast Indian Empire, could not fail to yield materials for a work far larger than these *Reminiscences*; and, accustomed as we are to be treated with six weeks' tours, over no very strange countries, extended to as great a length, we think well of the taste and moderation of Colonel Welsh in limiting his selections within so acceptable a compass.

"Nearly one hundred plates increase the interest of these very amusing volumes — of which we now take our leave, and thank their author for the pleasure they have afforded us."—*Literary Gazette*.

"These volumes are modest in their pretensions, yet the variety of curious and interesting facts which fell under the author's notice during his forty years' campaign in India, are conveyed in a plain, manly style, suitable to the subject."—*Athenæum*.

"The industry with which Colonel Welsh has collected and noticed the most important facts connected with the History of India, is very praiseworthy and the work which has been produced out of such materials, is interesting in the highest degree. Nearly one hundred plates enrich the volumes, which are written in the simplest and best style of narrative. There is no affectation, none of the common vanity of com-

mon authors discernible; the interest is derived from the incidents which are recorded, and these are not less important than they are entertaining. We can only add that the volumes contain more information respecting the progress of our arms in India, and the general history of the country than any other work of the same size at present extant."

Lady's Magazine.

"At a time when the connection of Great Britain with her extensive territories in the Eastern world, and her commercial relations with that vast region, are canvassed with the most jealous scrutiny, and when the capabilities, the internal resources, and external advantages of the country, owning her dominion, are no less objects of political consideration and public discussion than the habits, manners, customs, and dispositions of the people, upon all of which the maintenance of our future interests in that quarter of the globe must eventually depend; we hail with peculiar pleasure the publication of a work so well qualified to afford the most important information, illustrated by the details of personal experience, as "*The Military Reminiscences*," of Colonel Welsh. The knowledge so arduously acquired, and the intelligence so practically gathered from *nearly forty years of active service* in that country, are in our eyes, infinitely more valuable than any mere statistical report officially made, or than the inquiry of any agent of a government, or instrument of a political party could be, inasmuch as we have here presented to us the candid and unprejudiced views and opinions of a disinterested observer of passing events;—not the casual or incidental occurrences of a few days, weeks, months, or years, but the transactions which have occupied the space of nearly half a century, and which furnish the strongest chain of evidence that can be adduced in support of the writer's estimate of the natural and political condition of the land in which he lived, and the people amongst whom so long and so eventful a period of his life has been passed.—Colonel Welsh brought to his laborious task a well cultivated, a liberal and discerning mind, and he has given the result of his observations to his countrymen—who, are of all other nations, the most deeply interested in the subject—with unostentatious sincerity and frankness; whilst the strongest assurance of the authenticity of his record may be derived from the high character he enjoyed as a gallant and distinguished officer, and the talent and integrity displayed in every page of the work. The recital of

"The battles, sieges, fortunes, he has pass'd,
E'en from his boyish days,"

is judiciously and cleverly illustrated by engravings from the drawings of Colonel Welsh; and the volumes which we have unfeigned satisfaction in recommending to public favor, have issued from the press in a style most creditable to the publishers, and worthy of the author's unassuming merit." — *Cheltenham Journal*.

"The journal of a soldier in India requires neither language nor sentiment to recommend it to the reader; fidelity and regularity are soldier-like qualifications, and events, persons, places, faithfully described and regularly entered, would make a romance on the back of the muster-roll.

"We can trace the author's strength of mind in the vivid touches of description that enliven these volumes, while the beautiful pagodas, hill-forts, and striking features of this part of India, are illustrated with good views, and the non-military part becomes, if possible, more interesting to the general reader.

"We have thus traced a few pages of the Colonel's journal, that the reader may form an accurate idea of the whole; the events increase in interest as the work progresses; and we need only add that the volumes are printed in the best style, and, with the engravings, forms a good specimen of the present state of the English Press." — *Atlas*.

A
MEMORIAL,
ADDRESSED TO
THE COURT OF DIRECTORS
OF THE HONORABLE THE
EAST INDIA COMPANY,
BY
COLONEL JAMES WELSH,
LATE OF THE MADRAS ESTABLISHMENT:
ACCOMPANIED BY COPIES OF
TWO UNANSWERED MEMORIALS
FROM THAT OFFICER,
FORWARDED FROM THE EAST INDIES IN THE YEARS 1807 AND 1810.

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

1830.

DIRECTIONS FOR PLACING THE PLATES.

**Sketch, shewing the relative situations of Chocampetty, Courtallum,
Pallamcottah, and Tutucoryn to face p. 177**

Sketch of the Barracks, Mosque, Facqueer's Hut, &c. &c. to face p. 205

Attack on Trasmalore Lines ————— 298.

B. M'MILLAN, PRINTER, BOW-STREET, COVENT-GARDEN.

A

MEMORIAL,

&c. &c.

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

HONORABLE SIRS,

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

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

B

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

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

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

I have the honor to be,

Honorable Sirs,

Your most obedient and
faithful Servant,

JAMES WELSH,
Colonel, Madras Establishment.

Cheltenham,
August 11, 1830.

(COPY).

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

GENTLEMEN,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

I have the Honor to be,

&c. &c.

Blackheath,
April 14, 1808.

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

(COPY).

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

HONORABLE SIRS,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Major-General Campbell,
Lieutenant-Colonel Campbell, H. M. 94th Regiment,
Lieutenant-Colonel Dighton,
Lieutenant-Colonel Robertson,
Major Bryce, and
Mr. J. Cochrane, of the Civil Service, late Zillah Judge of Combeconum.

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

I have the Honor to be,

&c. &c.

Blackheath,
April 14, 1808.

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

(COPY).

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

DEAR SIR,

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

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

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

&c. &c. &c.

J. WELSH.

(COPY).

To Major James Welsh, Portsmouth.

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

DEAR SIR,

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

I am, Dear Sir,

Yours truly,

T. E. BAKER.

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

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

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

General Orders on
the Conduct of Lt.-
Col. Grant & Major
J. Welsh, respect-
ing Distrust of Na-
tive Troops under
his command.

152. "We have received the Me-
morial you have forwarded from these
Officers, upon the subject referred to
in this paragraph, and shall hereafter
communicate such observations thereon
as may appear necessary*."

(True Extracts),

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

(True Extracts),

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

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

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

(2167).

GENERAL ORDERS.

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

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

The following Extracts from the Confirmed Pro-
ceedings of a General Court Martial assembled in Fort

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

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

CHARGES.

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

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

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

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

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

By order of the Commander-in-Chief,

Fort St. George,
13th December, 1806.

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

SENTENCE.

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

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

Approved and Confirmed,

Fort St. George,
March 7, 1807.

(Signed) J. F. CRADOCK.

CHARGES.

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

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

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

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

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

SENTENCE.

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

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

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

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

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

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

(2169).

GENERAL ORDERS.

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

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

Fort St. George, 20th March, 1807.

G. O. By Government.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

By order of the Right Honorable the Governor in Council,

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

By order of the Commander-in-Chief,

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

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

(COPY).

PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL.

From Lord Wm. Bentinck to Lieutenant-Colonel Munro.

Fort St. George, August 2, 1806.

MY DEAR SIR,

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

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

SIR,

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

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

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

I remain, my Dear Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

W. BENTINCK.

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

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

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

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

MY LORD,

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

I have the Honor to be,

With the highest respect,

My Lord,

Your Lordship's most obedient
and most humble Servant,

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

April 3, 1807.

MEMORIAL*.

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

HONORABLE SIRS,

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

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

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

* Never answered.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

I have the Honor to be,

Honorable Sirs,

With the greatest respect,

Your most obedient and

devoted humble Servant,

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

(Signed) J. WELSH,
Maj. 1st Bat. 3rd Reg. Madras N. I.

A True Copy,

(Signed) J. WELSH.

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

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

A True Copy of Extract,

(Signed) G. STRACHEY,
Secretary to Government.

(Signed) THOS. REYNELL,
Military Secretary.

(Signed) J. WELSH.

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

COPY OF THE PROCEEDINGS
OF A
GENERAL COURT MARTIAL
HELD AT FORT ST. GEORGE, IN THE EAST INDIES,
FOR THE
TRIAL OF MAJOR JAMES WELSH,
Of the 1st Battalion 3rd Regiment Madras Native Infantry,
FOR DISARMING THAT CORPS ON THE 19TH NOVEMBER, 1806,
WHILE UNDER HIS COMMAND IN THE FORT OF PALLAMCOTTAH ;
Together with all the various Official Papers connected with the subject,
BOTH BEFORE AND SUBSEQUENT TO THE TRIAL :
WITH AN APPENDIX
In a separate Volume,
TO FACILITATE THE NECESSARY REFERENCES, AND ILLUSTRATE
THE WORK*.

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

PREFACE.

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

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

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

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

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

In this situation I was obliged to proceed by myself to Trichinopoly, and had no further communication with the Corps; and having never dreamt that my conduct could be otherwise than approved of, I had, so far from encouraging or seeking evidence in my own favour, discouraged every mention of this subject, and endeavoured to make all ranks believe that it should be buried in obscurity, in order to restore that mutual confidence and unanimity which alone could render the Corps respectable, and prevent a recurrence of those disgraceful practices, which would have been terminated by the murder of their Officers, and the ruin of the Native Service for ever. I was thus (from motives of delicacy to the very men who had been seeking my life) deprived of the means of more fully establishing (by Native evidence) the guilt of the Corps in general, and moormen in particular; although I am confident, that on an attentive perusal of the following sheets, my Honorable Employers, and the Public at large, will not hesitate to acknowledge that a dangerous Mutiny did exist in the 1st Battalion 8th Regiment N. I., and that in quelling it, I not only discharged my duty with fidelity, but also prevented consequences, the extent of which may be easier conceived than delineated.

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

J. WELSH.

COPIES OF LETTERS,

PRECEDING THE TRIAL.

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

SIR,

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

(Signed)

ALEX. DYCE,

Pallamcottah,

Lieut.-Col. Commanding Tinnevely District.

11th December, 1806.

To Major Welsh.

SIR,

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

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

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

To Lieutenant-Colonel Dyce, Pallamcottah.

SIR,

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

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

(Signed) **J. WELSH.**
Camp at Kytaur,
December 12, 1806.

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

SIR,

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

J. WELSH.

*Camp at Kytaur,
December 11, 1806.*

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

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

(COPY).

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

SIR,

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

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

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

(Signed) J. WELSH.

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

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

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

Fort St. George,
15th December, 1814.

Received the 21st at Trichinopoly,

J. WELSH.

(COPY).

To the Adjutant-General, Fort St. George.

SIR,

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

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

I yesterday furnished Colonel Campbell with a list

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

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

Trichinopoly,
December 22, 1806.

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

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

(Signed) J. WELSH.

(COPY).

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

SIR,

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

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

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

J. WELSH.

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

Madura,
December 17, 1806.

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

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

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

SIR,

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

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

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

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

(Signed) J. WELSH.

Trichinopoly,
December 22, 1806.

(COPY).

To the Adjutant-General of the Army.

SIR,

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

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

Trichinopoly,
December 23, 1806.

(COPY).

To Major Welsh, 1st Battalion 3rd Regiment.

SIR,

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

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

Pallamcottah,
27th December, 1806.

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

(COPY).

To the Adjutant-General of the Army.

SIR,

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

(Signed) **J. WELSH.**

Ryapett,
January 9, 1807.

(COPY).

To Major Welsh, 1st Battalion 8rd Regiment.

SIR,

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

Fort St. George,
Jan. 9, 1807.

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

To Major Welsh.

Fort St. George, Jan. 17, 1807.

SIR,

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

I have the Honor to be, Sir,

(Signed) THOS. REYNELL,
Military Secretary.

(COPY).

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

SIR,

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

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

(Signed) J. WELSH.

*Madras,
17th January, 1807.*

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

(COPY).

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

SIR,

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

*Madras,
January 22, 1807.*

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

To Major Welsh, &c.

SIR,

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

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

<i>Fort St. George,</i> <i>28th January, 1807.</i>	(Signed)	P. A. AGNEW, Adj.-Gen. of the Army.
---	----------	--

(COPY).

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

SIR,

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

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

(Signed) J. WELSH,
Major.

Madras,
29th January, 1807.

To Major Welsh, &c. &c.

SIR,

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

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

Fort St. George,
4th February, 1807.

(COPY).

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

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

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

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

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

C. MARSH, JUDGE-ADVOCATE-GENERAL.

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

CHARGES.

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

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

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

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

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

By order of the Commander-in-Chief,

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

Fort St. George,
13th December, 1806.

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

The Prisoner answers—"Not Guilty."

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

"Officer commanding Troops at Quilon.

"SIR,

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

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

(Signed) “ J. WELSH,

“ Major, Commanding Pallamcottah.

“ November 20, 1806.”

LIEUT.-COL. DYCE, *sworn*.

The Charges are read to the Witness.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

A.—Not any.

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

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

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

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

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

A.—Of the 1st Battalion 3rd Regiment.

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

A.—I cannot say; I presume they were.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

admitted into the Garrison, and reincorporated with the Corps; and on the march of the 1st Battalion 3rd Regiment from Pallamcottah, I directed the remainder of the Mussulmen to join their Corps, after being armed, with the exception of some of the Commissioned Native Officers.

Q. by the Court—What opinion have you formed of the general conduct of the Mussulmen, subsequent to the restoration of their arms?

A.—On the march of the 1st Battalion 3rd Regiment from Kytaur, I directed Captain Wilson, who then commanded the Corps, to report to me daily (so long as they continued in the district I commanded) the general conduct of the Corps. I received daily reports accordingly by Tappall, stating that the behaviour of the Corps was regular and satisfactory. I personally spoke* to the remaining Mussulmen of those who had been disarmed, previous to the ordering them into the Fort to receive their arms, and to their being reincorporated into the Corps, on which occasion they seemed highly satisfied with the measure, and their conduct was such as it ought to be.

Q.—Did you hear from Major Welsh, whether he had any proof of a conspiracy, besides the proof he had received from his own servants?

A.—He stated a number of concurring circumstances.

Q.—What were those circumstances?

* Colonel Dyce cannot speak a word of any Native language.—J. W.

A.—He stated that the Battalion one evening under arms, had manifested symptoms of great disturbance*, paid little or no attention to the duty they were then performing, and seemed to be much occupied with something foreign to their duty; that, in short, they appeared either drunk or stupified; that the Native Officers on the parade being dismissed, behaved in an indecorous manner, talking very loud, and conducting themselves improperly. He said this happened some days previous: that on a variety of occasions, expressions had fallen from Sepoys strongly indicating a hostile design; that on a recent occasion, the Senior Subadar of the Corps had used improper language before several of the Native Officers and Non-Commissioned Officers, at Major Welsh's quarters; that on the morning of the day on which Major Welsh received information of the conspiracy, there appeared to be an unusual commotion among all ranks of the Natives; and that it appeared as if the conduct of the European Officers was watched with much jealousy; that some days preceding the 19th, some blood had been sprinkled on each side of the door of the Protestant Church at Pallamcottah; that a ghost had been seen to parade about the Garrison, supposed to be that of a Mussulman who had been put to death some years before, and that the apparition was in the habit of crying out, "Bread and Water."

* Colonel Dyce here has combined the information he had from other Officers, with mine.

Q. by the Court—Did you yourself make any inquiries amongst the Natives, relative to the conspiracy reported by Major Welsh; and what was the result of that inquiry?

A.—Not among the Troops; I consulted and examined a respectable Native inhabitant* at Pallamcottah, who informed me that he could not ascertain any thing about the conspiracy, as it was involved in so much mystery.

Q.—Did the inhabitant at Pallamcottah whom you consulted, appear, from your observation, to believe in the existence of the conspiracy?

A.—I am disposed to think he did not.

COLONEL DYCE Cross-examined by Prisoner.

Q.—Did you not confirm and approve every public measure I adopted, even four days after your arrival in the Garrison?

A.—I confirmed every public measure to the period mentioned by the Prisoner. I had no other guide for my conduct than Major Welsh's verbal reports. He did not deliver his written and official statement on the subject†, in consequence of constant employment, *I presume on duty*, till the 25th.

* This respectable inhabitant was Cusoor, Colonel Dyce's dubash, an infirm old man, who hardly ever quitted his house. Can it be supposed that the conspirators would go and tell him of their plot?—J. WELSH.

† He was living with me at the time in the Fort, and knew every thing as fully as I did myself.—J. W.

Q.—Did you not approve, as well as confirm those measures ?

A.—I did not specifically approve of all Major Welsh's measures, although I followed them up, because it seemed to me then to be impossible to retract.

Q.—Did you not, immediately on your arrival in the Garrison, and before you had any report from me concerning the attempt to force the door, announce your determination to put all the Native Officers who were in confinement, in irons ?

A.—Certainly I did, a short time after I arrived in the Garrison; but on the representation of Mr. Stratton, the Judge, I waived that determination*. The attempt to force the door, and the report of its being attempted, were subsequent to my determination of putting the Native Officers who were confined, in irons.

LIEUTENANT-COLONEL DYCE *Cross-examined.*

Q. by Prisoner—Did I not wait upon you with a recommendation from Mr. Stratton, Mr. Hepburn, and others, not to put them in irons ?

A.—I believe Major Welsh was the channel of communication from Messrs. Stratton and Hepburn on that subject, in which Major Welsh also concurred. This was on the day of my arrival at Pallamcottah.

The Court adjourns till Eleven o'clock To-morrow morning, February 26.

* Vide Mr. Stratton's Deposition, Appendix.

Thursday, February 26, 1807.

The Court met pursuant to their Adjournment. Members present the same as yesterday. The Prisoner admits the facts mentioned in the First and Second Charges, that is to say, the Confinement of the Native Officers, the Disarming of the greater part of the Battalion, and the Expulsion of the Moormen from the Fort of Pallamcottah.

The Letter written by Major Welsh to the Officer Commanding the Troops at Quilon, is again put in Evidence in support of the Third Charge.

[Here the Letter was again inserted verbatim.]

The Judge-Advocate-General produces a Copy of a Letter, the original of which the Prisoner admits to have been written on the 20th of November, to the Governor of Ceylon.

“HONORABLE SIR,

“By a miraculous effort, we
 “have discovered and quelled a mutiny at this place;
 “an express has been sent off to Trichinopoly; but
 “from the nature of a plot understood to be in great
 “forwardness all over the Coast, we think it absolutely
 “necessary to apply to you for succour by *Tutucoryn*;
 “a few Companies of Europeans for a rallying point,
 “at this period, may prove the means of saving the
 “Company’s Territories all over the Coast (there are

" no European Corps south of Trichinopoly, and four
 " Native Corps very thinly Officered); we have now
 " quiet possession of the arms of the Battalion, having
 " turned out 450 Mussulmen, and confined 20 Native
 " Officers. It may be necessary to inform you briefly,
 " that all *Mussulmen* are concerned in this plot, and
 " that this district abounds in them: a European
 " succour alone can complete the work, which (under
 " Providence) we have so fortunately begun. We
 " are in all about twenty souls to depend upon one
 " another, after collecting Civilians, Officers, private
 " Europeans, and half-casts together: we will sell
 " every life most dearly, before any force shall conquer
 " us. We have four Ladies in the house with us, and
 " have armed 4 or 500 men, whom we hope we may
 " rely on. Colonel Dyce commands this district, and,
 " *if alive*, will be here to-morrow. We keep posses-
 " sion of the Fort, but rely on our citadel, a large
 " house.

" I have the Honor to be,

" Honorable Sir,

" Your very obedient Servant,

" J. WELSH,

" Major, Commanding 1st Bat.

" 3rd Reg. and Pallamcottah.

" *List of Gentlemen present.*

" Mr. Stratton, Judge of the Zillah; Mr. Hepburn,
 " Collector; Mrs. Wetherall; Mr. Woodcock, Regis-
 " ter, and Lady; Mr. Douglas, Deputy Commercial

“ Resident; Mr. Hanbury, Assistant-Collector; Cap-
 “ tains Wilson and Pepper; Lieutenant Wilson and
 “ Lady; Lieutenant Gore; Lieutenant Perkins; Lieu-
 “ tenant Dumas; Mr. McCabe, Surgeon; Mrs. Welsh;
 “ Mr. Ringletaube, Missionary; and Mr. W. Light.”

The Judge-Advocate-General produces a Copy of a Letter, which the Prisoner admits to be a True Copy of a Letter dated 19th November, addressed by him to Colonel Campbell, at Trichinopoly.

“ *Colonel Campbell.*

“ SIR,

“ I have the honor to inform you, that in
 “ consequence of information (after strong suspicions),
 “ that a day was fixed on for our murder by the
 “ Moors, I consulted with the Judge and Collector,
 “ assembled my Officers, and pushed at once, mostly
 “ unarmed, to the Barracks: having sent the reputed
 “ ringleaders outside, we fell in the barrack guard,
 “ and seized the arms; and after moving about for
 “ some time in different directions, collected most of
 “ the men, not Mahomedans, whom I armed.

“ I have now, with a handful of men, quiet posses-
 “ sion of the Garrison, and have turned most of the
 “ moormen out of the Fort. We look for immediate
 “ succour, and shall defend our present position with
 “ our lives.

“ If those now in arms are faithful, we are pretty
 “ sure: I have thirteen Moorish Officers in close con-
 “ finement, and our position is confined to the Parade,

“ Commanding-Officer’s Quarters, and General Stores,
 “ all contiguous. Heaven has so far favored our
 “ attempts, and we trust to God for the rest.

“ I am, Sir, in much haste,

“ Yours obediently,

(Signed) “ J. WELSH,

“ November 19,

“ Major Commanding Pallamcottah.

“ Half-past Five, P. M.

“ P. S. Civilians and all are concentrated and arrived
 “ here.”

The Judge-Advocate-General also produces a Copy
 of a Letter to the Master Attendant of Tutucoryn,
 which the Prisoner admits to be a True Copy.

“ DEAR BAGGOTT,

“ Send off *this* immediately,
 “ as you value life. God has done wonders by our
 “ weak hands, and we are all well together; state the
 “ hour you receive this, by return of post. Hundreds
 “ of pagodas will be given for a conveyance, if a cheap
 “ one cannot be procured. Raise all the Dutch, and
 “ seize my guard at the *Big House**.

(Signed) “ J. WELSH.”

The Judge-Advocate-General also produces a Copy
 of a Letter addressed to the Prisoner from Major of
 Brigade M'Dowall, from Quilon, in answer to one
 addressed by the Prisoner from Pallamcottah.

* Government House at Tutucoryn.

“ Major Welsh, &c. &c. &c.

“ SIR,

*“ Lieutenant-Colonel Grant desires me to
“ communicate to you the measures which have been
“ adopted here, in consequence of the information he
“ received from you last night.*

*“ As a temporary expedient for the night, our guns
“ were planted on the flanks to command the line: we
“ had there the artillery-men, band, and drummers,
“ that we could depend upon, with firelocks and ac-
“ coutrements of two Companies, taken from the
“ Sepoys.*

*“ This measure seemed to create no alarm, nor did
“ the motive seem to be understood.*

*“ This forenoon the side-arms and pouches of am-
“ munition of both Corps were taken from them—the
“ men were brought by Companies to the Artillery
“ Barrack-yard, where they delivered them without a
“ murmur.*

*“ We have formed a party of Officers, artillery-men
“ and half-cast, drummers, &c. whom we may rely on,
“ of 100 effective men: these may do a great deal;
“ and indeed I may safely say, that nothing can be
“ effected against so many, determined to resist.*

*“ The Native Officers are so situated, that it will be
“ difficult for them to take any steps against us.*

*“ You mention emissaries having come this way.
“ Colonel G. will esteem it a particular favor, your*

“ communicating any information on that subject you
“ may possess.

“ We have not as yet been able to discover any here,
“ but your information might enable us to trace them;
“ but the secrecy of their measures makes it difficult
“ to discover *them**.

“ Your obedient Servant,

(Signed)

“ S. M'DOWALL,
“ Major Brigade.

“ *Quilon*,

“ 22nd November, 1806.”

The Prisoner being called on for his Defence, reads
the following written Address to the Court:

DEFENCE.

MR. PRESIDENT AND GENTLEMEN,

ALTHOUGH the situation in which
I am now placed is entirely novel, and must certainly
be irksome to any man of honor; yet the conscious
innocence which led me (ere I knew of my arrest) to
demand a public Trial, emboldens me now to address
this Honorable Court in the language of sincerity;
without the least doubt of an investigation which I am
convinced can alone acquit me of the several Charges
preferred against me.

It is my wish to intrude as little upon the time and

* The emissaries alluded to, were Emaum Ally, a Havildar of my own
Corps (vide Appendix), and the Vellore Facqueur, who made his escape on
the 19th, while I was disarming the Corps, and went direct to Quilon.

patience of the Court, as the nature and extent of the Charges will admit; but they naturally lead me into a detail of circumstances, which I cannot omit without injuring my own character as a Soldier.

In the month of July last (shortly after accounts reached Pallamoottah, of the massacre at Vellore), I remarked a degree of mystery in the conduct of the Corps I commanded, especially one night, when one of the sentinels over the colours at my door snapped his piece, and afterwards went through the motions of priming and loading in a very deliberate manner. The inquiry which followed (being somewhat foreign to the present subject), I shall omit, and only state, that the Native Officers, taking advantage of the circumstance, persuaded us (with Lientenant-Colonel Dyce's authority) to turn out 162 Drafts from the 6th Extra Battalion, as suspicious persons*, not one of which was a moorman, or any way connected in the Corps. These men (being still at drill) were not sufficiently known to the few European Officers commanding Companies; and it is natural to suppose, from what happened subsequently, that the motive for getting rid of them, was not a suspicion of their fidelity on the part of the Native Officers, but a fear that these men would not join in a plot to murder their European Officers, or that they might betray it, through apprehension or stupidity†.

* Vide Appendix, No. I.

† Not a man ever proposed to turn out the real relatives and connexions of the mutineers, many of whom were known to be in the Corps; far less did they point out the brothers of the ringleaders as suspected persons.

I sent out parties afterwards in all directions, to apprehend Deserters from Vellore; and it is well known, that though twenty-two were brought in by Collectors, Peons, and Eteapoor Poligars, not a man was ever apprehended by my Sepoys; on the contrary, when any were brought in (I was afterwards assured), their conductors were publicly abused at the main gate by the Sepoys on duty, for bringing in their countrymen to be delivered up to Europeans.

On the 3rd August, the Battalion barber (Ramah by name), informed me that there was a report in circulation, that five Companies of Europeans were on the road, to make Christians of all the Natives, and to turn the Battalion out of the Fort; in consequence of which, Subadar Sheik Hyder had assembled the moormen, and hoisted a flag at the mosque. My tailor, who was then present, immediately confirmed that part relative to the reports. On going into my verandah, I observed a very large flag flying at the mosque (it was triangular, of a dark blue or green ground, with light yellow oval spots on it). I had never seen such an ensign before, and it had a rich appearance, resembling satin. I understood afterwards, that on hoisting it, the moormen gave a *deen*, declaring "that the Infidels were routed, and that the Mussulmen were to govern the country."

My brother-in-law (Mr. Light*) informed me, that

* Now a Lieutenant in the 4th Dragoons, and Assistant Quarter-Master-General in Spain.

he saw another flag flying on one of the bastions that morning. The latter, however, I could not find out, or I should have instantly torn it down, and taken such other measures as might be necessary at the moment. When the Native Officers came shortly after to make their reports, I spoke to them about the rumours in the Bazar, and told them it was their duty to have informed me, that I might contradict them. I then wrote to Colonel Dyce, who sent me a Proclamation*, which I published on the 5th August†, with my own sentiments fully on the occasion, and received the most satisfactory replies from the Native Officers, which I then reported to Trichinopoly, and the flag disappeared that night privately; after which they applied to me for permission to hoist the annual flag of *Cawder Wallie*, which was done with much ceremony. This flag is long and narrow, called a *Goam*, in consequence of its being cut in the semblance of a centipede, and it ought to have been taken down in ten days or a month at furthest, and be replaced by a white flag the rest of the year. The *Goam* at Pallamcottah was flying till the 20th November with an orange flag (till taken down by the Hindoo Sepoys). The barber told me the next day, that Sheik Hyder and other Native Officers abused and threatened him, for telling me

* Appendix, Nos. III. and IV.

† When Colonel Dyce's Proclamation arrived, I was out with the Corps, firing ball at the target, on purpose to show my confidence in them. On our return I convened the Native Officers, and explained it to them, prior to being regularly translated for the Corps.

about the flag and the reports (although I had never mentioned his name to any one of them); and some time afterwards he told me he was quite miserable and despised by the whole Corps, and if any of them were talking together, when he appeared they left off, and always shunned him upon all occasions.

These trifling occurrences (as they must now appear to the Court, and did then to me), lead in a regular chain to the main subject. Every thing remained quiet till some time after the middle of August, when Mr. Cochrane, Collector, received a Letter from one of his Aumildars at Shevlapatoor, informing him that he had received an order from Madura, to prepare sheep, &c. for 500 Europeans and followers, that had arrived at Madura on the 12th, in their way to Pallamcottah. Mr. Cochrane sent it in to me, with a man to read it. I instantly affirmed it was a falsehood, and publicly contradicted it. On inquiry, the author could not be traced, but I have now good reason to believe it was Madar Sahib, brother to Sheik Hyder, then at Madura (who afterwards at Pallamcottah, on the 19th November, sent to the Tappall to stop his Letters*, &c). All this time, numerous foreign Facqueers had been pouring in, and one among them I particularly remarked, who seemed for a long time a spy upon all my actions, and annoyed me very much, by following me every where, and demanding alms in a haughty

* Vide Appendix. Depositions, Nos. X. and XI.

tone; but as no suspicions were then entertained of the nature of the mission of those people, I took no further notice of them, and matters went on as usual; and if I had ever entertained any slight suspicions of the Corps, they were certainly laid aside from that time, till the 14th November.

A severe domestic loss* in the end of October, had induced me to retire to the sea-coast for a few days. I came up to Pallamcottah, to be present at the returns, and there, on the 1st November received a Letter† from Colonel Dyce, then at Trichinopoly, giving an account of the Mutiny at Nundydroog, &c. I read it, and thought no more of it, but returned to Tutucoryn that night, where I received on the 11th another Letter from Lieutenant-Colonel Dyce‡, desiring my immediate return to my Corps, for very particular reasons, to be communicated in future.

I set off that night, and arrived in the Garrison next morning, where I found that Colonel Dyce had been for a short time on the 10th, and proceeded to Courtallum. I reported my return, and at the same time sent for Subadar Sheik Hyder, Acting Adjutant, (a man who had for many years held that situation, and who was high in the confidence of every Officer in the Corps): I told him what I had learnt of the affair at Nundydroog, with Colonel Cuppage's having detached

* The loss of a beloved child.

† Vide Letter, Appendix, No. IX.

‡ Appendix, No. X.

two Companies, and thereby deferred the execution of the plot, &c. instancing at the same time, the singular kindness of Providence to the Europeans, in pointing out and defeating those villanous plots. I begged him to speak to the rest of the Native Officers, and engage them to keep a strict eye over the mendicants from the northward, and if they should attempt to corrupt the men, to bring them to me. He promised very fair, and departed, but never mentioned a word of it to any body.

On the 14th I received a detailed account* from Col. Dyce, of the plots at Nundydroog and Bangalore, the suspicions of the Native Army in general, &c. &c. which led me to think it necessary to set some person to watch over even the Native Officers. The result of this last step (which proved its necessity) is detailed in my Official Report to Lieutenant-Colonel Dyce of the 25th November, a Copy of which†, with subsequent Notes, I now beg leave to submit to the Court for perusal, as also an Order by Lieutenant-Colonel Dyce the same day.

Now, Gentlemen, when all these circumstances are duly weighed; when it is considered how artful the Natives are in concealing the nature of their designs, and how difficult (if not impossible) it is to arrive at positive evidence of guilt, when that is to be drawn chiefly from those involved in it; when it is taken

* Appendix, No. XI.

† Vide Letter A, and Appendix, No. XV.

further into consideration, that in the remote position of the 1st Battalion 3rd Regiment, the safety of the European part of the community wholly depended upon our own exertions, and the immediate execution of those measures we had adopted to defeat the conspiracy; I trust, Gentlemen, when you revolve these circumstances in your minds, I shall appear to you to have been guided in the line of conduct I pursued, by a strong sense of duty, arising out of the most imperious necessity.

That the measures I adopted were hazardous, I do not attempt to deny; but they were not acted upon without due consideration, and the united sense of the whole of the Gentlemen of the Station, who all concurred with me in opinion, that they were fully warranted by the critical posture of our affairs.

The unhappy tragedy at Vellore had sunk deep into every man's mind, with the uneasy reflection, that it might perhaps have been averted, had due attention been paid to the information of an individual, previous to the melancholy event. I beg, Gentlemen, I may not be misunderstood: it is far from my intention to impute blame to any man. I am willing to believe, that the confidence so generously reposed in the Native Troops, arose from a just consideration of their long-tried fidelity and attachment; but I am anxious to defend myself, and having before me a never-to-be-forgotten instance, and proof written in blood, of the fatal consequences of reposing in such false security,

I was determined to do all that lay in my power to avert the blow, which I was convinced (and in which conviction I shall continue to my dying hour), from the evidence I possessed, was impending over us.

Permit me, Gentlemen, to put a case—allow me to suppose, and the supposition is by no means improbable (for the melancholy affair to which I allude affords a memorable example), that a similar catastrophe had happened at Pallamcottah, to that which took place at Vellore, and that it was discovered I had had information of the plot, yet disregarded it—I will ask, what would have been the reflections upon the occasion? Though it is not probable I should have had to answer before this Tribunal for my gross neglect and deplorable infatuation, yet I will venture to affirm, that my memory would have been stigmatized as a driveller and an idiot, who could thus repose in such careless security, after the dreadful example so recently afforded me.

I trust my character is too well established in the Service, to allow it to be supposed that I was actuated by groundless fears.

I can with truth aver, that I never, upon any occasion, betrayed the smallest distrust of the men under my Command, nor ever intimated the least suspicion of them to my Superiors, or felt it in my own bosom, till it was roused by that which I (and all around me) regarded as an undeniable proof of a conspiracy.

To have delayed acting, in such a critical situation,

might have been attended with the most fatal consequences: I could not expect a complete developement of the plot from those concerned in it, and I had discovered that the men most in my confidence in the Corps, were among the most active conspirators: to whom, then, could I apply for further information? an hour might have matured the plan of the insurgents, and the proofs we were anxiously seeking for, been sealed with our lives.

Really, Gentlemen, I feel (and I dare say you all feel), that under the impression of contending passions and opinions to which so delicate a question must necessarily give birth, the line of conduct to be followed by an Officer placed in such circumstances, becomes a most difficult and perplexing choice: he is censured if he acts without the most positive proofs—and how difficult these proofs are to be come at, I trust I have already shown—and if he neglects the information conveyed to him, and in the sequel it be found correct, he is equally liable to be called to account, and is answerable for all the lives he might have saved, by timely exertions.

It were a vain and futile attempt in me, to offer an appeal to the passions of this Court; and I declare, that what I have stated in this short Address (in reply to the two first articles of Charge exhibited against me), is the simple dictate of conscious rectitude, and the conviction I have ever felt of an existing conspiracy in the Battalion, and which I do firmly believe,

could only have been counteracted by the decisive measures I adopted.

I come now to the Third Charge, and I trust I shall be able to satisfy the Court, that in writing as I did, I was influenced by what I considered my indispensable duty.

I had detected a dangerous conspiracy in the Corps that I myself commanded; I had received several Letters from a quarter which it was incumbent on me to attend to, expressing an opinion that the spirit of disaffection and revolt was general throughout the Native Army, and recommending me to be watchful, and to take every measure of precaution; I had seen a Letter from Government to the Magistrate, directing him to apprehend all foreign Facqueers who might come into the Fort, and mix with the Sepoys, as they were suspected to be the agents of sedition, and the instigators of revolt. Before I wrote the Letters which form the subject of this Charge, I consulted the principal Civil Officers in the District, who not only concurred in opinion, as to the necessity of the measure, but strenuously urged its immediate adoption, as the only means left us, not merely for our own safety, but also for the preservation of the country.

Under the impression of the facts which had recently come to my knowledge in my own Corps (in whose fidelity I had ever reposed the most implicit confidence), and combining them with various circumstances I had learnt from a respectable authority, to-

gether with the intelligence I have stated in my Official Letter*, with Notes, already before the Court, I was led to apprehend the existence of a plan for a general insurrection, and to consider myself imperiously called upon to use every endeavour to defeat it. How another man would have acted under similar circumstances, it is not for me to say; I followed that course which I conceived my duty pointed out to me; I thought it necessary to apprise the Commanding Officer of the Travancore Subsidiary Force, of the alarming state of affairs, and to apply to Ceylon, as the nearest point whence assistance could be obtained.

Now, Gentlemen, though no man can more sincerely rejoice than I do, that the rumours then in circulation prove to have been greatly exaggerated (for no one was ever more firmly attached to the Native Service than I have ever been), still I think it is hard to impute to me the crime of creating false alarms, which I humbly conceive, is justly chargeable only in cases where a man acts upon his own opinion of danger without any cause, or with a design to disturb the public peace. But in the instance before you, Gentlemen (as I have already stated), the principal Civil Officers, and, I may say, every European in the Garrison of Pallamcottah, concurred in the propriety and necessity of writing the Letters in question; and if we were misled, I trust my conduct will be judged

* Appendix, Letter A.

ascribable to the fallacy of human reason, which (as an infirmity common in a greater or less degree to all mankind) cannot be justly imputed to me as a crime.

In short, Gentlemen, I can with truth affirm, that what I did, I did for the best, and from an anxious zeal for the good of the Service, which all those who know me, I am confident, will allow, I have ever made the rule of my conduct; and I cannot but feel the strongest emotions of regret and concern, that it should in this instance have created so unfavorable an impression in a quarter where it has ever been my study to merit applause.

But I trust that the explanation I have given, and the Evidence I shall adduce in support of it, will lead to conclusions in regard to my conduct, far different from those which (unhappily for me) have hitherto been formed of it.

I would here conclude my Defence, and call upon my Evidences, were it not absolutely necessary (in support of a character hitherto unassailed by the breath of slander) to trespass a little longer on the patience of the Court, by the introduction of the subject of the Investigation which took place at Pallamcottah after the Corps left it.

Understanding that two of the Members of the Court of Inquiry (Major Scot and Captain Newall) had very illiberally prejudged my conduct—aware of the partial knowledge of the Court, from the removal of the Corps, and consequent absence of all the European Officers

(but one)—and apprehending that Lieutenant-Colonel Dyce's suspicions of the veracity of my Butler would lead him to condemn his Evidence—I was induced to apply for a Copy of the Proceedings, to enable me the more fully to justify my own conduct. This was at first denied me; but in the end, His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief was so kind as to allow me to peruse, and make extracts from it; a Copy of which*, with Notes of my own, I now submit to the Court, and entreat that it may be recorded on the face of the Proceedings (in my Defence).

A spotless Character is the dearest possession of a Gentleman, and Courage one of the chief requisites in a Soldier—*mine* has been most unjustly slandered in the assertions of the Prisoners, recorded in the Proceedings of the Court of Inquiry.

I have been seventeen years in the Service, and should be undeserving the rank I hold in the Army, if I could sit down contented under such an imputation. I have further to vindicate (as far as in me lies) the characters of my few European Officers (Captains Wilson and Pepper, Lieutenants Wilson, Perkins, Gore, and Dumas), equally assailed with my own, when they are accused “of having been *frightened* at “Subadar *Sheik Hyder's Flag*”—not one of whom, I am confident, ever discovered a sensation of the kind: on the contrary, it is to the spirit of those Gentlemen

* Vide Copy, Appendix.

that I am indebted (under Providence) for the surprising success of my measures on the 19th November.

I hope my remarks on the Proceedings will not be misunderstood ; I mean not wantonly to censure any man.

I can duly appreciate the justice done by the Court of Inquiry, in so far as relates to myself ; but I feel equally called upon to support the *servant* to whose courage and fidelity *we all owe our lives* ; nor can my sense of obligation to Lieutenant-Colonel Dyce, induce me tacitly to allow a mis-statement which strikes at the very root of that sentiment, and which, if true, would render him an object of universal detestation.

[Thus far was written before Colonel Dyce gave his Evidence ; and what follows, was the result of the *manner*, as well as the *matter* of that Evidence, before the General Court Martial.—J. W.]

I come now to advert to the Evidence given by Lieutenant-Colonel Dyce.

It is painful to me, to be obliged to say unpleasant things of any man ; and had Lieutenant-Colonel Dyce acted with that liberality and candour I had a right to expect from him, I should not have had occasion to trouble the Court with many questions which he has obliged me to put to others, in order to prove that part of his Evidence on oath is a mis-statement.

As the opinion and behaviour of my immediate Commanding Officer towards me, after the adoption of such measures as are now brought in serious Charges

against me, must, I presume, have great weight with the Court, I am led to think it my duty to bring forward a variety of otherwise useless matter to establish this point.

Although Lieutenant-Colonel Dyce has declared to this Court, that he did not approve of my public measures, I hope to make it appear evident, that he led me, and every body else, to conceive that he highly approved of them, both publicly and privately; and I solemnly affirm, that he promised, to the best of his ability, to support me in them.

How far he has fulfilled his promise, I leave to the Court to decide; but I am certainly inclined to believe, that the Court would find it difficult, if not impossible, to discover any traits of that friendly solicitude for my acquittal, or any remaining embers of personal acquaintance with me, which my misfortunes appear to have obliterated from his memory. I will allow that his Evidence is upon the whole favorable, but it was extorted from him, and could not be avoided.

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

The Court adjourned till Ten o'Clock To-morrow,
Friday, 27th instant.

Friday, February 27, 1807.

The Court assembled this Day, agreeably to their Adjournment. Members the same as yesterday.

The Prisoner puts in a written Report, dated 25th November, 1806, written by the Prisoner to Lieutenant-Colonel Dyce.—Vide Appendix, A*.

CAPTAIN PEPPER, 1st Battalion 3rd Regiment,
is sworn.

Q. by Prisoner—Were any men, and how many, turned out on the 25th of July last, from the 1st Battalion 3rd Regiment, at Pallamcottah?

A.—About 160.

Q.—By whose order?

A.—By the orders of Colonel Dyce.

Q.—What was the reason of their being turned out?

A.—It was in consequence, as I was told by the Adjutant†, of Major Welsh's having observed a Sepoy, who was sentry at his quarters, about twelve o'clock of the night of the 22nd July, going through the motions of priming and loading; upon which Major Welsh went to the Adjutant, and called him up, and informed him what he had seen the Sepoy do.

* The Judge-Advocate, by putting in this Paper in my name, threw out all my Notes, which formed a part of my Defence, in the Copy I produced to the Court; but as it was actually read to the Court, and admitted by them in my Defence, I have copied it fully, as it then stood.

† Lieutenant Hill, who died in October.

Q.—Who communicated the circumstance to you ?

A.—The Adjutant and Major Welsh. The men were turned out by the immediate orders of Colonel Dyce.

Q.—Was there a Court of Inquiry held on the subject of turning the men out ?

A.—There was.

Q.—Who composed that Court of Inquiry ?

A.—All the Native Officers, as well as Europeans.

Q.—By whose orders, and under whose authority, did that Court sit ?

A.—By the orders of Colonel Dyce.

Q.—Did not the Native Officers advise the European Officers to turn the men out ?

A.—They did.

Q.—What reason did they give for that advice ?

A.—As bad and suspicious men, and of the same caste as the men at Vellore, and supposed to be connected with the 23rd Sepoy Corps at Vellore, and having been raised at Shanganacole.

Q.—Do you recollect any circumstance of a strange flag having been hoisted at Pallamcottah ?

A.—There was a rumour about it. There was a flag hoisted at the Mosque at Pallamcottah.

Q.—Did it appear to you to be an unusual one ?

A.—I never took notice of it; I only saw it hoisted.

Q.—Were you present when I assembled the Native Officers, and read to them a Proclamation ?

A.—I was present.

Q.—What did I say to them on that occasion ?

A.—Major Welsh told them in Moors, to stick to their duty, and rely on the British Government.

Q.—Do you know of a Letter received by Mr. Cochran from one of his Aumildars, mentioning five Companies of Europeans being on their march to Pallamcottah?

A.—Yes.

Q.—Did you observe any strange Facqueers in the Garrison prior to the 18th November?

A.—I did.

Q.—Relate what happened at the morning parade of the 16th November.

A.—I was Senior Officer on parade, and after I had dismissed the men, I ordered the Native Officers to fall out. They made their report to me; on which I observed a murmuring: I immediately asked what was the matter, and said if they had any complaint to make, the Commanding Officer was always willing to attend to it. They still spoke amongst each other; on which I called out to them again to relate what they had to say; on which the Light Company Subadar, Sheik Nutter, came forward to me in a peremptory manner, and said that Major Welsh had abused him, on account of some Sepoys getting leave. Immediately after, another Subadar came forward with a similar complaint. I told them to remove on one side, and I would take them to the Commanding Officer's quarters; on which the whole said they would accompany me. I told them there was no occasion for that, and they

might retire; they did, and I went with the two Subadars towards the Commanding Officer's quarters. On reaching the Commanding Officer's gate, one of them wished to be off, as he did not wish to make a complaint. I found Major Welsh indisposed, and after waiting some time there, I told the Subadar to go to his own house, and when I had had an interview with Major Welsh, I would tell him what he had said to me. On taking his leave, he requested I would not mention the circumstance to Major Welsh. I told him I would, after what had happened: I then walked off. About two hours afterwards, when I called on Major Welsh, I told him what the Subadar had told me; he immediately sent for him and Sheik Hyder, and then asked them what complaint they had to make; upon which he put his hands in a supplicating posture, and assured him he had none; and then Major Welsh and the Subadar went into a private room.

Q.—State what passed on the 18th November between Messrs. Stratton, Hepburn, and myself, at Mr. Stratton's house?

A.—I went out with Major Welsh to Mr. Stratton's house. Major Welsh told Mr. Stratton of a number of Facqueers being about, and of one in particular, who came from Vellore. Mr. Stratton then put a paper into Major Welsh's hand, which I was informed was an order to apprehend those kind of people (Facqueers) who could not give a good account of themselves: on which Major Welsh said he would

point out this particular man, if he could meet with him, but as he did not appear for several days, he supposed that he went off to Quilon, I think.

Q.—State the circumstance of the evening parade on the 18th November.

A.—On the 18th November the Officers assembled as usual, and after going through a few manœuvres, the Officers were ordered to fall out; on which there was a general remark made amongst us, that the men did their manœuvres very badly; appeared to be very inattentive, and to be stupified: on which Major Welsh desired one of the Officers present not to talk about it, and we then walked off.

Q.—State the circumstances of the 19th November, beginning in the morning.

A.—The Officers, as usual, had assembled at breakfast at Major Welsh's quarters; on my arrival there, Major Welsh put a Letter into my hands, on the back of which was written, that he (Major Welsh) had discovered a plot, that we were all to be killed in ten days, and if there was any suspicion, we were instantly to be massacred—that we must keep it quietly till measures could be adopted. Immediately after breakfast Major Welsh asked me to go out visiting, to which I consented, and we went to Mr. Hepburn's house. Major Welsh took Mr. Hepburn aside, and spoke to him: after their consultation was over, we agreed to go over to Mr. Stratton's. After we had been at Mr. Stratton's a few minutes, Major Welsh and I went to Mr. Douglas's warehouse, fol-

lowed by Mr. Stratton and Mr. Hepburn, who called Major Welsh aside, and retired with him for some time; and then we returned to the Fort. On returning, Major Welsh informed me of the plans that were to be adopted, which were, that a few of the ringleaders were to be inveigled out of the Fort, to the Zillah Judge, on some pretence, and then we were to proceed to the Barracks, take possession of their arms, and act afterwards as circumstances would require. Sheik Hyder, on our return, was immediately sent for, and on his arrival at Major Welsh's quarters he appeared much confused and agitated. Major Welsh gave him a chit, and told him to proceed with it to the Magistrate, accompanied by some other Native Officers. When he went away, I went to my quarters, in order to watch when they went out of the Fort. About noon he had not gone. I then returned to the Major's quarters, and at the time saw numbers of Sepoys running about the Fort, of which I informed Major Welsh. One or two European Officers riding by at the same time, it was proposed to proceed to the Barracks forthwith. Other Officers were sent for, and when they came we proceeded to the Barracks. On reaching them we ordered the picket to fall in, prime and load; on which the Officers armed themselves with a musket and beat to arms. Then we went into the Barracks, drove a few of the men out, and took possession of the door-ways, collected all the arms, and posted an Officer (Lieutenant Wilson) with a few Hindeos over them. We then went out, and

ordered the men to fall in, and informed them of what we had discovered, and seized the whole of the Native Officers—at this time there was great confusion, and we told them that we came there *determined to die and defend ourselves**. We marched the Native Officers to the Commanding Officer's quarters, where they were confined in a small room. Myself, one or two Europeans, and a few Natives, were posted over them. Then Major Welsh and the other Officers went away. Afterward I saw the men collected on the parade, and Major Welsh was speaking to them. In the evening most of the Native Officers were marched down to be confined in a secure place, and a few remained at the Commanding Officer's quarters. The European Officers were distributed, and had charge of them that night.

Q.—Did you not observe Subadar Sheik Nutter load a musket at the Barracks?

A.—No; I saw a musket in his hand, in a loading position, when Major Welsh went up to him.

Q.—Did you see me disarm him?

A.—I did; Major Welsh took the musket from his hand.

Q.—Were you present when Mr. Sawyer told me he heard my Orderly hissing at me on the parade?

A.—I was.

Q.—Was the Orderly confined in consequence?

A.—He was.

* This is an error I am not at liberty to correct, as it stands so in the Official Copy I purchased from Mr. Marsh.

Q.—On what day was it?

A.—To the best of my knowledge, the day after the Native Officers were confined.

Q.—On what day was it that Mr. Sawyer said my Orderly hissed at me?

A.—The evening of the day the men were turned out of the Fort.

Q.—In what manner did I treat the Prisoners?

A.—Perfectly well; every thing was allowed them; they did not complain.

Q.—Were you present when the Native Officers were put in irons?

A.—I was.

Q.—Relate what happened.

A.—One of the Prisoners made a great noise in prison; on which I went to the window to see what was the matter. The Prisoner put his hand to the window, when two or three of his comrades took hold of him: I then returned towards the door-way. I heard a noise from the door, and informed Major Welsh of the noise, who immediately came to the prison, and finding the man making a great noise, inquired the reason of it.

Q. by the Court—What was the Prisoner's name?

A.—Sheik Hussein, Subadar of the 7th Company. Colonel Dyce then came down, and ordered the whole to be put in irons. I opened the prison-door, went in, and laid hold of the man (Sheik Hussein), brought him out, and he called out in Moors and Malabars, and

I had some trouble in putting him in irons; he was then sent off to a separate prison. They were all then put into irons.

Q. by Prisoner—Did not we (the European Officers) prevent Colonel Dyce from putting them in irons, by a representation in the morning?

A.—Yes.

Q.—Do you know any thing of a Writer of Sheik Hyder's running away from my house?

A.—I was at Major Welsh's quarters when the Writer run off: I pursued him.

Q.—For what reason was he brought to my quarters?

A.—To give information that he had received an order from Sheik Hyder's brother*, to prevent any Letters for Sheik Hyder or his brother from being sent to the Commanding Officer's.

Q.—What did Colonel Dyce tell you about his suspicions of the Corps?

A.—Three days after the arrival of the Corps at Pallamcottah, he said he suspected something was going wrong with them.

Q.—When did he tell you so?

A.—A day or two before the Corps marched from Pallamcottah: this was about the 10th of December.

Q.—Did not Colonel Dyce tell you, after I left Pallamcottah, that he approved of my conduct, and would support me as much as he could?

* Vide Appendix, Depositions Nos. X. and XI.

A.—He told me he approved of Major Welsh's conduct. I did understand in the conversation between Colonel Dyce and me, that he would support Major Welsh as well as he could.

Q.—What was my general treatment of the Corps?

A.—Major Welsh treated them kindly. I never heard any complaints of him.

Q.—Did I ever evince any want of confidence in the Corps till the 18th November?

A.—Never, to my knowledge.

Q. by the Court—Did you see the Letter you speak of, from the Aumildar to Mr. Cochrane, or only hear of it?

A.—I saw it in Mr. Cochrane's hands.

Q. by the Court—You say the whole of the Native Officers were confined: was there not one Native Officer who was not confined?

A.—The whole whom we assembled at the Barracks were confined.

Q.—Was the Native Officer who was seen loading a firelock, a prisoner at the time of his doing so?

A.—No.

Q. by the Court—Was it before or after the Prisoner had given the orders for the Corps to fall in without arms, that Sheik Nutter had the firelock?

A.—After*.

* Sheik Nutter was the first Native Officer that arrived—Can any man doubt for a moment the intention of this man, in seizing a firelock and loading it? He had his sword on at the time, and he made a dash at the

Q.—When did the Corps arrive at Pallamcottah ?

A.—The end of March.

Q.—When Sheik Hussein called out in Moors and Malabars, what was it he said* ?

A.—I do not recollect.

Q. by the Court—Did it appear to you to be the universal opinion of the European Settlers at Pallamcottah, Civil and Military, that the measures of precaution taken by Major Welsh were absolutely necessary for their safety ?

A.—Highly so, amongst all who conversed with me on the subject.

LIEUTENANT-COLONEL DYCE *is called on his former Oath—to prove Papers, in his hand-writing, written to Major Welsh.*

Papers put in by the Prisoner :

Appendix, No. I. is then put in by the Prisoner,
being a District Order, dated
23rd July, 1806.

II. A Private Letter from Lieutenant-Colonel Dyce to the Prisoner,
is next put in by the Prisoner.

arms, which were collected in a corner, while I was busy haranguing the Corps. The arms were at this time in two corners of the Barracks. Lieutenant Wilson was at one, and the other Officers at the other. As soon as collected into one place, Lieutenant Wilson was put in charge of the whole. Native Officers do not use firelocks.

* He called out aloud, that Sheik Hyder had been proclaimed Commandant of the Fort fifteen days before ; on which all the rest attacked and struck him and called him a madman.

Appendix, No. III. Garrison Orders, 4th August, 1806.

IV. Letter which enclosed the above Orders, same date*.

V. Letter, 6th August, from Courtalium.

VI. Ditto, dated 7th August.

VII. Ditto, dated 9th August.

VIII. Ditto, dated 13th August.

IX. Ditto, dated 30th October.

X. Ditto, dated 7th Dec. (Nov.)

XI. Ditto, dated 13th November.

XII. Ditto, not dated.

XIII. Ditto, dated 18th.

XIV. Ditto, 20th November, 1806.

XV. Extracts from Garrison Orders, 25th November.

Q. by the Court to Lieutenant-Colonel Dyce—Had you reason to suspect the 1st Battalion 3rd Regiment of infidelity, soon after its arrival at Pallamcottah?

A.—Not then: the first cause of suspicion of insubordination in that Corps, arose from a private Letter from Major Welsh, which I thought it my duty to forward to Colonel Campbell, respecting a suspicious flag said to be hoisted on the Mosque.

The Court adjourns till Ten o'Clock To-morrow.

* Here I proposed to the Court to let the Judge-Advocate read to Colonel Dyce my Remarks on his Evidence, but was told it was unnecessary.

Saturday, February 28, 1807.

The Court assembled in pursuance of yesterday's Adjournment. Members present the same as yesterday.

CAPTAIN PEPPER *called on his former Oath.*

Q. by the Court—Whether, previous to the expelling the Hindoo Sepoys from the Garrison of Pallamcottah, at the instigation of the Native Officers, as bad and suspicious men (conceiving them connected with the 1st Battalion 23rd Regiment at Vellore, which was formed at Shanganacoile), you observed any seditious and disaffected conduct, sufficient to justify that opinion of them?

A.—No, I did not.

[The Prisoner requests it may be recorded on the Proceedings, that previous to the production of the Letters written by Lieutenant-Colonel Dyce, he had applied to that Gentleman in Court, for his consent to the production of them, and that Lieutenant-Colonel Dyce assented to it.—The Prisoner's request is granted*.]

* In explanation of this extraordinary and misplaced paragraph, I had called upon Lieutenant-Colonel Dyce as an Evidence in my favor, looking up to him as a man of honor, to state every particular, and exculpate me from blame; but on his arrival at Madras, he applied not to me, but the Adjutant-General, to let him off from attending as an Evidence (being about to embark for Europe), and said he could not conceive what right I could have to detain him; hinting at the same time, that his Evidence might not be much in my favor. This was the cause of my Trial coming on so soon, not to give me an early opportunity of vindicating my character, but to allow Lieutenant-Colonel Dyce to proceed to England. Finding that he

LIEUT. and ADJUTANT WILSON, *is next sworn.*

Q. by Prisoner—Were you present at a Court of Inquiry on the 23rd July? if you were, state what passed.

A.—I was there. The Court of Inquiry was ordered

did not appear to have any recollection of his promises, or of his personal acquaintance with me, I determined to force him, by cross questions, to acknowledge the truth of my assertions. His Letters, which I had kept by good luck as *public vouchers* (for all his orders were thus conveyed to me), were not intended to be produced, unless he should deny their purport; but the Judge-Advocate having called him the first day on the *part of the prosecution*, told the Court that he had done so on account of Colonel Dyce's being pressed for time; and that the Prisoner having thus had all the benefit of his Evidence, he hoped he might be allowed to retire. The Court agreed, and he was about to withdraw, when I addressed the President, and said I had called upon Lieutenant-Colonel Dyce in my Defence; that I had a great deal to do with him, and could not consent to his departure, unless he allowed me to produce his Letters to me on official subjects. To this he willingly assented; but not expecting my Defence to come on so soon, I had not brought the Letters in with me, and when I produced them the next day with my written Defence, the Judge-Advocate very properly said, they could not be taken until authenticated by Colonel Dyce (who was not to be found that day). Captain Pepper was therefore called in the interim. The Letters thus produced, were selected from forty or fifty still in my possession, and I was careful not to publish any one that contained any opinions on the conduct of individuals, or which could in any manner tend to injure Colonel Dyce, without tending to my own justification.

The insertion of this paragraph at this late period, proceeded from my expressing surprize at not finding any mention of it in the fair Copy of the Proceedings; and apprehending that people who were not present at the time, might suppose I had acted with indelicacy towards Colonel Dyce, to whom I certainly am greatly indebted for the authentic intelligence he from time to time communicated, and the suspicions he instilled into my mind, without which we should have been coolly butchered in our beds, unprepared and unresisting.—J. WELSH.

by Colonel Dyce, consisting of the European and the Native Officers as deliberative Members, to report on those men of the Corps, who were supposed by any means suspicious. The result was, that about 160 men of the Corps were provisionally dismissed the Service, and their dismissal was subsequently approved of by Government.

Q.—What reason was assigned for turning out these 160 men?

A.—I believe it was because they had belonged to the 6th Extra Battalion, from which some drafts had been sent to the 2nd Battalion 23rd Regiment, and which Corps had been raised at Shanganacoile.

Q.—Were there any other reasons assigned by the Native Officers?

A.—Yes, there were—want of caste; want of stature.

Q.—Were any suspicions of their fidelity mentioned by the Native Officers?

A.—Yes, I believe there were; I cannot speak positively.

Q.—Were any men conducting Deserters into the Garrison, abused by the Sepoys?

A.—I did not myself hear them abused; I only heard that they were abused.

The Judge-Advocate objects to the latter part of this Answer, on the ground of what the Witness heard not being Evidence.

The objection is over-ruled by the Court.

Q.—Did you observe any strange Facqueers in the Fort, after the Vellore business?

A.—I did, one in particular.

Q.—Did I send Guards out to apprehend Mutineer Deserters from Vellore?

A.—Yes.

Q.—Did they ever bring in one man?

A.—Yes, several: none that I know of were Deserters from Vellore.

Q.—Did my Sepoys ever bring in any man?

A.—They brought in Deserters: I am not certain they were Deserters from Vellore.

Q.—What number of Mutineers were brought in by other people?

A.—I do not exactly recollect the number, but a large party were brought in by Mr. Cochrane's Peons.

Q.—Did you observe any blood at the church on the 16th November?

A.—No.

Q.—Were you at the church on the 16th November?

A.—No.

Q.—State the occurrences of the 19th November.

A.—On going to Major Welsh's quarters in the morning, he communicated his suspicions to me; and said that he was going to take prompt and effectual measures for the general safety. A little after this I returned home, and was called about an hour afterwards to Major Welsh's house, when all the Officers of the Corps present proceeded to the Barracks, and

seized the arms of the men: A small party of Hindoos, on whose fidelity most could be relied, was formed under my orders, and placed over the arms, with directions from Major Welsh, not to allow a musket, or any arms, to be taken away, except at the expence of our lives. Whilst I was in the Barracks, the Corps was ordered to assemble on the general parade.

Q.—Were you present when a Letter from a Sepoy at Travancore was read to Messrs. Stratton, Hepburn, and myself, on the morning of the 20th November; and what was the subject of that Letter?

A.—I was: it was from a Sepoy in Travancore to his sister at Madura, which mentioned that he would not be in the Service in the space of a month or two, and that he would then go and rejoin her at Madura.

Q.—Was there nothing further in that Letter?

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

Q.—Did you copy my Letters to Trichinopoly, Columbo, and Quilon, on the 19th and 20th of November?

A.—I did.

Q.—Were Messrs. Stratton and Hepburn present when I wrote them?

A.—They were, when the Letters were written to Columbo and Quilon; I don't know whether they were when the Letter was written to Trichinopoly.

Q.—Did Messrs. Stratton and Hepburn see those to Columbo and Quilon prior to their dispatch?

A.—Yes.

Q.—Were my Butler and Ramaswamy publicly confined, after Colonel Dyce's arrival?

A.—They were*.

Q.—Were you present when *Aga Nuzzer Ally*† visited Colonel Dyce at my house?

A.—Yes.

Q.—Did he say any thing about a Facqueer?

A.—Yes, and Mr. Fisher too; as Mr. Fisher spoke in English I understood him better.

Q.—What did Mr. Fisher say?

A.—Mr. Fisher said that they met a Facqueer near the Travancore gate, who grossly insulted *Aga Nuzzer Ally*, and said that he was sent by the Prophet to destroy thousands—supposed to mean Europeans.

Q.—You were long Adjutant of the Corps while I commanded it—what was my general conduct and treatment of the Corps?

A.—Major Welsh universally conducted himself with the greatest humanity to the Corps, and paid great attention to their interests and comforts.

Q. by the Court.—When you took charge of the Sepoys' arms on the morning of the 19th November, was there any appearance of resistance on the part of the Sepoys to deliver up their arms‡?

A.—I did not observe any myself.

* Vide my Note, Court of Inquiry.

† Brother to the Persian Ambassador.

‡ No arms were delivered up.

Q.—Did you read the Sepoy's Letter from Travancore, and in what language was it?

A.—It was in the Malabar language: I could not read it.

Q.—By whom was it read?

A.—By the Vakeel of the Battalion, and a Writer of the Post-Office.

Q.—By what channel was it received at Pallamcottah?

A.—By the common Tappall.

Q. by the Court—Did you observe the Subadar whom Major Welsh disarmed, with a musket in his hand?

A.—No, I did not.

Q. by the Court—Did you know any thing of a Havildar having knocked down a Sepoy in the Barracks, whilst the Corps was disarming there on the 19th November?

A.—I only heard so.

Q. by the Prisoner—Do you know whether any of my guards ever brought in any Mutineer Deserter from Vellore?

A.—No, I do not recollect.

LIEUT. DUMAS, 1st Battalion 3rd Regiment, sworn.

Q.—Were you present at a Court of Inquiry on the 23rd July? State the particulars of what passed there.

A.—I was not.

Q.—Do you know any thing of a strange flag flying at the Mosque?

A.—I saw it.

Q.—Describe it, and when it was hoisted.

A.—I cannot speak exactly to the date—I cannot describe it.

Q.—Do you know of any strange Façqueers arriving in the Fort?

A.—I have heard of them.

Q.—Do you know of any blood at the church on the 16th November?

A.—I heard the Clergyman say so.

The Judge-Advocate-General objects to the last Answer of the Witness, as being hearsay Evidence.

Q.—Were you at the church on the 16th November, and what passed there?

A.—I was not there; I was ill.

Q.—Were you present at the evening parade of the 18th November? and relate what passed.

A.—I was present at the evening parade the day before the men were put in arrest: the European Officers remarked after parade was over, that the men did not pay the usual attention they formerly paid to their duty.

Q.—State the occurrences of the 19th November, when I disarmed the Corps, beginning from the morning.

A.—On that morning Major Welsh sent me out to Mr. Stratton's; about an hour and a half before (as he told me) he had sent Sheik Hyder with a note to Mr. Stratton's, and Major Welsh told me it was his in-

tention, as soon as Sheik Hyder was out of the way, to draw the Corps out on the parade, and tell them what he had heard of the mutiny; and to tell them, if it was their intention to put their European Officers to death, to do it openly, and not as cowards. He sent me out at this time to Mr. Stratton's, to know whether the Subadar went out to Mr. Stratton's, and to see whether he was there. When I got there, I asked Mr. Stratton whether he had arrived; he said that he had not. On my return, I met in a bye street behind the Barracks, Sheik Hyder, the head Subadar, the Subadar of the 3rd Company, and the Havildar Major: when they saw me, they dispersed, and ran different ways*. I immediately went and informed Major Welsh of it, who afterwards asked the advice of the Officers, what was to be done: some said, it was best to go and disarm the men; others said not. Afterwards we went up in a body to the guard at the Barracks, and secured the arms of the guard close by the Barracks first. There was a large crowd about the place. I heard somebody, I don't know who, cry out, that there was a firelock snapped. I don't recollect any thing further.

Q.—Was an Orderly of mine put in irons?

A.—Yes.

Q.—For what?

*. Would not innocent men have met an Officer, and paid him the usual compliments? Mr. Light, my brother-in-law, was with Lieutenant Dumas in the same bandy. Not knowing of my Trial, he had gone to Europe, *via* Ceylon, before it came on.

A.—For making use of abusive language to Major Welsh.

Q.—Did you apprehend any Facqueers after this, and how many?

A.—Mr. Gore, who was Officer on Guard, seized one.

Q.—What was my general treatment of the Corps?

A.—I have always heard that the Prisoner was much liked in the Corps; I never heard the contrary.

Q.—Did I ever show a want of confidence in them, till after the evening parade of the 18th November?

A.—Never, that I saw.

Q. by the Court—Was there any resistance on the part of the Sepoys, on their arms being taken from them on the morning of the 19th November?

A.—I saw none.

Q. by the Prisoner—What number of Sepoys were in the Barracks when their arms were seized, exclusively of the guards?

A.—I cannot say: there were partitions between the Barracks; I could not see.

Q.—At what hour did we proceed to the Barracks on the 19th November?

A.—I believe between eleven and twelve in the morning.

Q. by the Court—Did you make any observation on parade on the evening of the 18th November, respecting the conduct and unsteadiness of the Battalion?

A.—Yes, I saw that they did not pay the attention they ought to have done.

LIEUTENANT GORE is sworn, and the Charges read over to him.

Q. by the Prisoner—Were you present at a Court of Inquiry on the 23rd July? State the particulars.

A.—I don't know the date of it; there was a Court sat in Major Welsh's house, to ascertain whether there were any suspicious persons in the Corps; as there were some drafts lately received from Shanganacoile, where the *Battalion* who behaved so ill at Vellore* was likewise raised. After inquiry, there were found to be a certain number, I don't recollect how many, reckoned suspicious persons, and discharged accordingly.

Q.—Who urged their being discharged?

A.—I understood from every body, that it was Subadar Sheik Hyder, he having stated that they were not to be depended upon.

Q.—Do you know any thing of a strange flag at the Mosque after this? and describe it.

A.—I know there was a strange flag hoisted, as it was the subject of conversation; but the colour and the flag itself I do not recollect.

* As this circumstance is mentioned in every Evidence, I think it necessary to state, that the Native Officers of our Corps had led us to believe that the 2nd Battalion 23rd Regiment Native Infantry (a very young Corps raised to the southward), was solely culpable in the massacre; and Government, by a hasty statement to the same effect, confirmed this fallacy. It has now been clearly ascertained, that the 1st Battalion 1st Regiment (one of the oldest Corps in the Service), was the principal, and the other only auxiliary in that atrocious affair.

Q.—Do you know of any Letter, received by Mr. Cochrane from Shevlapatoor—what was it?

A.—I do; I was one morning at breakfast at Mr. Cochrane's, who told me that he had received a Letter from Shevlapatoor, informing him that a Detachment of Europeans was expected from Madura. Captain Pepper wrote a chit from Mr. Cochrane's, stating that he had intelligence, to Major Welsh.

Q.—Do you know of any strange Facqueers appearing in the Fort?

A.—I know of one, who I frequently perceived begging at the Officers' quarters.

Q.—Do you know of my sending any guards out to apprehend Mutineer Deserters from Vellore?

A.—Yes; there were guards sent out, and I recollect Major Welsh's once saying, he would contribute towards a reward, if any of his men brought prisoners of consequence. Major Welsh specified one man, whose name I don't exactly recollect.

Q.—What was the result?

A.—I never heard of any being brought by the Sepoys.

Q.—Did Mr. Cochrane's people bring any?

A.—They did.

Q.—Do you know of the Sepoys abusing the Collector's people who brought them in?

A.—I was not present when they were abused.

Q.—Do you know of any blood at the church on the 16th November?

A.—Mr. Ringletaube showed me the spot where it had been.

Q.—What passed at the evening parade on the 18th November?

A.—The men of the Battalion, it struck me, were more inattentive and careless in their movements than ever I had seen them. A Peon brought to Major Welsh a packet; the Sepoy next me seemed alarmed, and elbowed the man next him, whether intentionally or not, I cannot be positive.

Q.—What passed after the Officers fell out?

A.—Lieutenant Perkins and myself observed how extremely ill the men had behaved in manœuvring: he said they seemed as if they were all drunk. Major Welsh told him that was not a proper place for such observations, and desired him not to repeat them, as they would be overheard.

Q.—State the occurrences of the 19th November, when I disarmed the Corps, beginning from the morning.

A.—In the morning, when I came out of my quarters to go to Major Welsh's, I met Mr. Light and Mrs. Welsh going towards Mr. Light's new house; he (Mr. Light) asked me to join them. After we had entered the house, he (Mr. Light) called me into another room, and informed me, that there had been a plot discovered for murdering all the European Officers of the Battalion who were in Garrison, in ten days; and if it was known to be discovered, it would most probably be put in execution immediately. We afterwards went to Major Welsh's house, where the Officers were assembled to breakfast. During breakfast, Major

Welsh wrote on the back of a Letter, that he had discovered a plot to murder us all in ten days. After breakfast he went with Captain Pepper out to Mr. Hepburn's and Mr. Stratton's, to consult with them (as I understood). On his return he informed us, that as it seemed the general opinion, that to proceed to the Barracks and take the conspirators by surprise, would be the best plan, he was determined upon it. I returned to my quarters, to make some arrangements before we went to the Barracks; during which, I saw Major Welsh and all the other Officers present (except Lieutenant Perkins, who was with me), come out of Major Welsh's house, and go down the road to the Barracks. We immediately ran out of the house to join them: we did not overtake the party till just after they had reached the Barracks. I perceived the Barrack guard under arms—a little after this they loaded; whether by order or not, I don't know. Major Welsh and all the other Officers, except Lieutenant Perkins, went into the Barracks, where the arms were. We remained with the Barrack guard, which was drawn up in front of the Barracks, facing outwards. Lieutenant Perkins remained at one flank of the guard, and myself at the other. I was walking up and down, close to it. During this, I thought I heard a firelock snapt, and I turned immediately round, when I perceived a Non-Commissioned Native Officer knock a Sepoy down. I asked him why he did so? his answer was, The man was playing with his firelock without orders. The

man fell with the firelock under his leg, in such a manner that I could not see the lock and pan. At this moment I was called into the Barracks, to take charge of one of the doors. After the arms of the Sepoys were collected at one end, and Lieutenant Wilson, with a party of Hindoos and Pariah Sepoys, placed in charge, we came out of the Barracks. In the door-way, Subadar Sheik Nutter came up to me, and requested I would not let Major Welsh shoot him. I asked him why he should be afraid of Major Welsh hurting him? he said, Major Welsh had a loaded musket in his hand, and he might shoot him. I replied, if he had conducted himself properly, he might be confident neither Major Welsh, nor any one else, would injure him. Having armed the Hindoo men, and the Drummers and Pariahs, we went round to all the gates, beginning with the Travancore gate. On our arrival there, we formed a party of Hindoos, in command of whom Major Welsh left Captain Wilson, with orders to take charge of the gate, with certain orders; next the main gate, where Major Welsh left me with a party of Hindoos, with directions to defend the post with my life. Before he left the gate, he gave into my charge the Facqueer I before mentioned, and then passed on. While I was in charge of this gate-way, Mr. Stratton, the Judge, Mr. Hepburn, the Collector, Mr. Douglas, the Deputy Commercial Resident, Mr. Hanbury, the Assistant Collector, with some Malabar-men's families, passed in and out. In the

evening, Lieutenant Perkins came down with Mr. Light and a party, to relieve me ; and Captain Wilson brought me an order from Major Welsh, to deliver charge to Lieutenant Perkins. After delivering charge, I went to Major Welsh's house, and saw most of the Native Officers in a side-room of Major Welsh's verandah, Major Welsh conversing with them : Captain Pepper, with a party, had charge of them. A short time afterwards, Major Welsh took their swords, and set them all at liberty but four, whom I understood he kept as sureties. A short time afterwards, the rest of the Native Officers were confined in the General Stores, where Captain Pepper and Lieutenant Dumas were placed on duty. Major Welsh's Butler, after dinner, having declared that there was another man who was present at a conference he had overheard, and who was not confined in Major Welsh's house, Major Welsh, myself, and the Butler, went down to the General Stores for him to point out the man, as he could not inform us what his name was. When we arrived there, he pointed to Subadar Secunder Cawn, of the 6th Company, whom we brought up to Major Welsh's house, who confined him in the same godown with his Tindall, whom he had been informed was also concerned. There was a padlock wanting to the door : I turned about to one of Major Welsh's servants to procure one ; during which Major Welsh remained conversing with the Prisoners in Hindoostanee. I heard one mention Sheik Hyder's name, saying he had

said something; I did not hear what it was—he was also using the word *Feringhee*. At that moment I asked Major Welsh what the man had said; he replied, that he had informed him “he heard Sheik “Hyder once declare in the Mosque, that the European Officers must all be murdered.” Major Welsh observed, that the man seemed to think nothing of what he had said. I went to Major Welsh’s verandah, and mentioned the circumstance to the Rev. Mr. Ringletaube, informing him that some confession might be drawn from the prisoner.

Q.—Was an Orderly of mine put in irons afterwards, and for what?

A.—There was an Orderly of Major Welsh’s put in irons; his crime was verbally given to me by Captain Pepper, for behaving in a seditious manner, in hissing Major Welsh, his Commanding Officer, and for saying, “You may command, but you shall see who will “obey.” I put him in irons, and gave him in charge to Lieutenant Perkins.

Q.—What was my general treatment of the Corps?

A.—That of the greatest kindness—I have heard Major Welsh express the greatest confidence in his men.

The Court adjourned till Eleven o’Clock Monday morning.

Monday, March 2, 1807.

The Court met this day, pursuant to their Adjournment. Members present the same as on Saturday.

LIEUTENANT GORE, *on his former Oath.*

Q. by the Prisoner—Were the Sepoys accustomed to sleep at the Barracks, or in their own huts?

A.—I do not know.

Q.—What was the size of the Barracks?

A.—Rather too small for a Battalion.

Q.—What number of Sepoys were present at the Barracks when we first secured the arms?

A.—The greatest part.

Q.—Do the Native Officers of the Corps speak Malabars?

A.—Most of them.

Q.—Was the *Goam** flying at Pallamcottah on the 19th November?

A.—In the morning, to the best of my recollection, but it was taken down afterwards.

Q.—Were you present when Mr. Fisher and Aga Nuzzer Ally spoke about a Facqueer?

A.—I was, when Mr. Fisher spoke about a Facqueer. Mr. Fisher, in Mr. Hepburn's tent, told us they had met a Facqueer in the Travancore gateway, who asked Aga Nuzzer Ally to assist him in putting Mr. Fisher

* Vide my Defence, where the *Goam* is described, p. 66.

to death, and upon his refusal, abused him; for which Aga Nuzzer Ally was going to cut him down, when Mr. Fisher interfered, and pacified him.

Q. by the Court—Was the Havildar that knocked down the Sepoy, a Hindoo or a Mussulman?

A.—I do not know.

NATIVE INTERPRETER *sworn.*

SUBADAR GUNNOJEE ROW, *1st Battalion 3rd Regiment Native Infantry, is sworn.*

Q.—Did you see a flag hoisted at the Mosque at Pallamcottah after the news of the Vellore mutiny?

A.—I saw it; every body saw it, as well as myself.

Q.—What shape and colour was the first flag of?

A.—The first was green.

Q.—What ceremony attended the hoisting of it?

A.—It was a ceremony of the Moormen, and I do not know what it was.

Q.—Was it carried about in a dooly?

A.—It was carried in a palankin, and carried round in procession.

Q.—Did the main guard salute it?

A.—It was carried to the Mosque by the way of the Bazar, and towards the Barracks, and was then carried to the Mosque; it did not come close to the main guard.

Q.—When was it taken down?

A.—About five o'clock in the evening it was taken down, and carried to the Mosque.

Q.—How many days did the flag continue to fly at the Mosque?

A.—It was flying several days, till the Corps was disarmed.

Q.—Which flag are you speaking of?

A.—Both flags.

Q.—Was the flag of Cawder Wallie hoisted after or before the green flag?

A.—The flag of Cawder Wallie was flying before the green flag was hoisted.

Q.—Which flag was hoisted first?

A.—The green flag was hoisted first.

Q.—What was the Bazar news, when the green flag was flying?

A.—I heard nothing in particular.

Q.—Was there any report that alarmed the Natives at this time?

A.—I did not hear any.

Q.—Was there a report of Europeans coming at that time?

A.—The Natives were in the habit of saying that some Europeans were coming: it was a Bazar report.

Q.—Was there any news concerning Vellore?

A.—It was a Bazar report, that a Battalion had mutinied at Vellore.

Q.—What was said to be the reason of that mutiny?

A.—That a new-pattern turban was ordered to be put on all Battalions, which was the cause of the mutiny.

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

A.—I heard nothing.

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

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

Q.—Where did he go to?

A.—He said he was going to Travancore.

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

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

Q.—Were there many Facqueers in the Fort?

A.—I don't know.

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

A.—To Sheik Hyder's.

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

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

Q.—Did he use people ill?

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

Q.—Did he make trouble with the Corps?

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

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

Q.—Had he great influence with the Corps?

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

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

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

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

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

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

A.—Not then.

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

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

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

A.—I never heard him.

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

A.—Deen! Deen! Deen!

Q.—What else did they say?

A.—Deen Jágá. Kauffer Bhagah?

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

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

Q.—Who ordered the guard?

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

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

A.—Yes, there was at the Barracks.

Q.—What was represented there?

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

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

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

Q.—Who paid the expences of this exhibition?

A.—The Sepoys were taxed to pay them.

Q.—Who ordered the tax to be made?

A.—Sheik Hyder.

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

A.—Two of them were in the Battalion.

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

A.—One; he was a Havildar.

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

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

A.—I heard so.

Q.—Where was Noor Mahomed?

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

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

A.—Very well.

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

A.—Yes, some days before.

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

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

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

A.—I was not there.

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

He became an habitual drunkard, and was pensioned.

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

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

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

A.—I was.

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

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

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

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

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

A.—Yes.

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

Tuesday, March 3, 1807.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(COPY).

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

SIR,

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

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

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

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

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

Pallamcottah,
July 26, 1806.

(Signed)

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

* Sheik and Sahib are used indiscriminately.

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

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

A.—Before.

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

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

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

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

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

† Disturbance.

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

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

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

Q.—How long had you been at Pallamcottah?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

A.—In Moors.

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

LYEN PERMAUL, *is sworn.*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Wednesday, March 4, 1807.

The Court assembled in pursuance of their Adjournment.

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

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

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

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

A.—No, I was in common cloth.

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

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

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

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

‡ He never was in the Mosque.

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

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

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

A.—In the Malabar.

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

A.—It is a common place.

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

A.—There was a wall betwixt us.

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

A.—In his common voice.

Q.—How high is the wall?

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

Q.—Did you see Sheik Hyder?

A.—Yes.

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

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

Q. by the Prisoner—Where was your house?

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

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

‡ Vide my Plan, in the Appendix.

A.—Near the Mosque.

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

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

JAMES HEPBURN, Collector, Tinnevely, is next sworn.

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

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

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

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

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

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

* Aitwaur Syng.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

CONCLUDING DEFENCE.

MR. PRESIDENT AND GENTLEMEN,

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

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

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

* After retiring for half an hour.

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

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

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

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

(Signed)

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

Madras, March 4, 1807.

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

Thursday, 5th March, 1807.

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

Whereupon the Court, after the most serious deliberation on the several Charges, the Evidence adduced in support of them, and the Evidence brought by the Prisoner, Major James Welsh, in his Defence—say, that he is NOT GUILTY of the First, Second, and Third Charges, and do most HONORABLY ACQUIT him of the same.

(Signed) D. CAMPBELL,
Maj.-Gen. and President.

Approved and Confirmed,

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

Fort St. George, March 7, 1807.

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

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

J. WELSH.

APPENDIX

TO THE

TRIAL OF MAJOR JAMES WELSH,

WITH OTHER

OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS

CONNECTED WITH THE SUBJECT.

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

APPENDIX.

LETTER A.

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

SIR,

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

PARA. 1. — On Sunday the 16th instant, in the morning, the Rev. Mr. Ringletaube was called to observe some blood sprinkled at the church-door: on examination, he found two large stains on each side of the threshold, and then drops of blood, leading from them, through the railings of one grave, and completely round another, where no further traces could be found.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

L

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

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

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

Another remarkable circumstance had happened the evening before. It had been my custom at evening parades, to put the Corps through a few manœuvres in quick time, and fire immediately from the point of formation, as I would do in front of an enemy. On the evening of the 18th, present, Captain Pepper, Lieutenants Perkins, Gore, and Dumas (Lieutenant Wilson being unwell), a Collector's Peon brought a large packet (intended for Colonel Dyce at Courtallum); a Sepoy, or Non-Commissioned, of Lieutenant Gore's Company, turned pale, and touched another. I gave the packet to my Orderly, and began a manœuvre. The men marched in disorder, formed ill, and, in short, did every thing in the most careless and slovenly manner. I admonished them to little purpose; and when the Officers fell

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

PARA. 10.—At this time Mr. Sawyer, Paymaster's Head Writer, observed my Orderly hissing at me behind my back, and heard him say in Malabar (when I called out, “ Fall in”) “ Yes, yes, you may call, but we will see “ who will come now.” On being informed of this I put him in irons, but released him two days after, with some wholesome admonition.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

EXPLANATORY NOTE.

Copy of my Letter on the subject of the Havildar.

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

SIR,

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

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

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

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

Dated
Pallamcottah,
September 1st, 1806.

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

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

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

(Signed) J. WELSH.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

“Toomaureh Muzub mee Milnekoo Rauzee hei”

“Toomaureh *zaut* mee Milaingeh”

“Toomaureh Topeeah Peennékoo tiar hei, Toomaureh

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

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

تماري مضب مين ملني كوراضي هين & تماري زات مين ملاينگي
&c. &c.

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

* We have twenty-four Native Officers.

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

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

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

Pallamcottah,
25th November, 1806.

(Signed)

J. WELSH,
Major Commanding 1st Bat.
3rd Reg. Native Infantry.

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

APPENDIX, N^o. I.

DISTRICT ORDER.

23rd July, 1806.

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

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

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

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

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

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

(Signed) **ALEX. DYCE,**
Lieutenant-Colonel.

N^o. II.

From Courtallum.

(PRIVATE).

MY DEAR SIR,

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

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

M

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

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

Yours truly,

(Signed) ALEX. DYCE.

25th July.

N^o. III.

GARRISON ORDERS.

4th August, 1806.

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

false, and malicious. The Government of Madras, and the Commander-in-Chief, having already formally announced to the Native Troops, their readiness at all times to pay just attention to the religious customs and manners of both the Mussulmen and Hindoos, by a positive and immediate revocation of the late orders regarding the new turbans; the Troops may rest assured, that the faith of the British Government and the Commander-in-Chief, which never has been impeached or violated on any occasion, will in *this instance* be most *sacredly observed*.

Lieutenant-Colonel Dyce therefore hopes and expects that the Troops will rely with ready and dutiful confidence on these solemn assurances, and that they will immediately dismiss and cast from them the malicious and confounded insinuations, which have been evidently propagated by evil-minded persons, to disturb the public peace.

Lieutenant-Colonel Dyce has served with the Native Troops for the long period of upwards of thirty years; he has shared difficulty and danger with them, in facing the enemies of the English Government, in every shape, and of every description, and he has ever found them brave, loyal, and faithful; nor can he believe that those Troops will ever swerve from their duty and obedience, when fully satisfied that justice, and a steady regard to all their rights, are the invariable rule of Government, and their immediate Officers. In giving this assurance to the 1st Battalion 3rd Regi-

ment, Lieutenant-Colonel Dyce can with confidence appeal to his character in the Army, during the period of thirty years: he has never deceived the Troops by assurances, or injured them by his conduct: he now declares, that the reports which have been circulated are false: he expects to be believed, and that the Troops will instantly lay aside every suspicion and distrust of that Government which has so long protected, encouraged, and rewarded the services of the Native Army, in a manner unprecedented among the Powers of India.

Lieutenant-Colonel Dyce, in order to mark his detestation of the conduct of the authors of this groundless and insidious report, hereby offers a reward of One Hundred Star Pagodas to any one that will discover the person or persons who originally circulated that report at Pallamcottah.

(Signed) ALEX. DYCE,
Lieutenant-Colonel.

N^o. IV.

From Courtallum.

MY DEAR SIR,

I CONSIDER the circulation of the report you mention, and the feelings of the Troops in hoisting (if they *did* on that occasion) the flag at the Mosque, &c. in a most serious point of view. I enclose a Garrison Order on the subject, which I wish, and direct, to be read to the Battalion under arms or

parade, as early as possible, in Hindoostanee, and in Malabars. For this purpose, be so good as carry it to Mr. Cochrane, who alone is best qualified to put the sense and substance of the General Order into those languages; and to request, in my name, to further the public service, that he will be so good as do so immediately. I think it my indispensable duty to issue this Order, and trust it will allay the ferment raised by some dark-minded villain, among your people. Be so good as immediately to apprise me of its effects; or of any thing you judge of moment, connected with it, without any delay. My servant Mootoo, at the garden, has orders to keep an express Tappall ready for this purpose, to dispatch whenever you order it. A special and trusty single swift messenger you can also send, if you see proper, and I will reward him. If assurances and words will satisfy the men, I hope the best effects from this Order.

You will understand, of course, that I shall hope the flag will be taken down by those who put it up, if the General Order be satisfactory. But every prudent exertion besides must be resorted to, to have that signal (if hoisted on this occasion) taken down—there is defiance and menace while it flies.

I have reported the circumstance and the General Order to Colonel Campbell. I shall be ready to repair to Pallamcottah, as future information from you may suggest.

I think it advisable to send off the prisoner you

have, with any others you may get, immediately to Trichinopoly.

Enclosed is a Letter to go with them.

The utmost circumspection and vigilance is necessary under your last Report; but I trust your next will be more satisfactory. In haste,

I am, Dear Sir,

Yours truly,

(Signed) ALEX. DYCE.

4th August, 1806.

P. S.—Forward the enclosed Letter to Colonel Campbell; and if any thing material has occurred since your Letter of yesterday to me, state it direct to the Assistant Adjutant-General, for Colonel Campbell's information.

NO. *IV.

Copy of an Official Letter from Major Welsh to Trichinopoly, produced and read to the General Court-Martial; but rejected by the Judge-Advocate, as only a Copy.

*To the Assistant Adjutant-General,
Southern Division, Trichinopoly.*

SIR,

LIEUTENANT-COLONEL DYCE having desired me to forward a Report to you (along with his Letters for Colonel Campbell), to state any thing further that may have occurred since my Letter to

him of the 3rd instant, I embrace the opportunity to assure Colonel Campbell, that, notwithstanding the reports in circulation, the men of this Corps have not evinced, in the slightest degree, a disposition to throw off their wonted respect for, and reliance on, their European Officers; and I really believe they are as firmly attached to the Service as ever. Although I conceive it my duty (under existing circumstances) to report even the most trivial occurrence to Colonel Dyce, yet I place every reliance on the fidelity of a Corps, which has evinced its courage and discipline on many recent occasions, and the individuals of which have frequently given undoubted proofs of personal attachment to their Officers. On reading and explaining Colonel Dyce's Order of yesterday to the whole of the Native Officers, after exercise this morning, they one and all assured me (in the most animated manner) of their unalterable attachment both to the Company's Service, and their European Officers; of a sincere conviction of their own duty as Officers, and of their readiness at all times to lay down their lives in support of my authority, should it be possible for the men to dispute it (which never has in the smallest instance been the case); they also promised to instil the same sentiments into the minds of every Sepoy in the Corps; and upon my honour I believe them. The Order will be translated this day into the country languages, and then read to the Corps. The circumstance of the flag at the Mosque has been explained

to me by the Native Officers, as an annual practice all over India, and entirely unconnected with the subject of the late reports*.

*Pallamcottah,
August 5, 1806.*

(Signed) **J. WELSH,**
Captain Commanding
1st Bat. 3rd Reg.

N^o. V.

From Courtallum.

(PRIVATE).

MY DEAR SIR,

WERE it not for the insurrection of the two Battalions at Wallajahbad, and an obscure account of some disturbance at Bellary, I should be without any further doubts of your Corps, after the conduct evinced by the Native Officers, as stated in your second Letter of yesterday.

I am, however, much relieved by the account and opinion you give of their feelings; but prudence, just now, is as necessary as apparent confidence.

I am glad the business of the flag is satisfactorily explained.

* My high and unlimited confidence in the Native Officers, led me to believe their assurances, and I was happy to observe that this *annual flag* (as they had *falsely styled* it) had been taken down secretly that night, which induced me to hope, that my long exhortations and solemn appeal to the honor of the Corps, had succeeded in removing every cause of discontent and suspicion from their minds. I had not then (or even till after my Trial) seen the Reports of the Vellore examinations, which at once opened my eyes with regard to the nature of that flag, so fully connected with the Vellore massacre.

An Express Tappall will be *always* at my garden, for any communication of importance; I shall keep it up for some time, but I hope there will be little occasion to employ it.

I will not come up to Pallamcottah unless there be further occasion for my presence.

It is needless, and might be detrimental, to show too much anxiety.

Yours truly,
(Signed) ALEX. DYCE.

6th August.

N^o. VI.

From Courtallum.

MY DEAR SIR,

I AM afraid you would have been disturbed last night, by the arrival of the Tappall from hence; my servant having by mistake sent off the Express with the common Letters.

Unless you have unhappily occasion to send Express, Mootoo, my servant, will always dispatch the *ordinary Tappall*; and upon such occasion occurring, direct him accordingly to send the Express, which is at all times ready.

(PRIVATE).

The two Corps of Wallajahbad I alluded to, you I suppose know, are the 1st of the 23rd, and the 2nd of the 1st. The Officers were confined, but the arrival of the 19th Dragoons, &c. unexpectedly disarmed them,

without effusion of blood. The 14th (Bosc's Corps) stood firm.

I have heard nothing since.

Yours truly,

(Signed) Major WELSH. (Signed) ALEX. DYCK.
7th August.

N^o. VII.

From Courtallum.

MY DEAR SIR,

I TRUST and hope the ferment of excited passions will soon subside totally. I clearly saw the necessity of saying something at the moment, which, if the men were not absolutely disaffected, would bring them to reason.

It may yet be well to use every means of privately ascertaining the state of their minds, &c. but *not* through the channel of your most confidential Native Officers.

Yours truly,

9th. (Signed) ALEX. DYCK.
Major M'Lean of the Cavalry is dead.

N^o. VIII.

From Courtallum.

MY DEAR SIR,

THE circumstance is remarkable, as it is scarcely possible that Sheik Adom would not have tried to make a party, where he was so con-

nected; look well after them, and perhaps something may be traced*.

Yours truly,
(Signed) ALEX. DYCE.

13/h.

N^o. IX.

From Trichinopoly.

MY DEAR SIR,

I CONDOLE with you and Mrs. Welsh, on the afflicting loss you have sustained, by the dispensation of Heaven.

(RATHER PRIVATE).

A horrid conspiracy at Nundydroog, of five Companies of the 18th Regiment, has been detected, in which the Commissioned Native Officers were the ringleaders. They intended perpetuating the horrors of Vellore; but the arrival of Colonel Davis with two Squadrons from Bangalore, saved the Officers. It appears to be completely a Mussulman plot, to restore that Government in the Peninsula, in which the Hindoos have joined. A Facqueer from the north of India, with some assistants, have been preparing this for some months at that place. They had a *pantomimical* representation of the *Court of Delhi*, with a battle between the English and French, in which the former were always beaten, and represented with great inferiority

* This alludes to the brothers of the ringleader (at Vellore) in our Corps.

to the French. Copy of a Prophecy was found, predicting the final expulsion of the English from India in 1806.

All this is most unpleasant, and should keep us all very watchful. Use this at your discretion.

Yours truly,

(Signed) ALEX. DYCE.

30th October.

P. S.—I shall not return till the 7th of November, when an answer from Madras may be received.

I have written Custory about the bearers. Pray forward the enclosed.

It is said that similar parties of Missionaries to that of Nundydroog, are spread about the country.

Lord Lake has gone up the country, there being strong grounds to think a war with Holkar inevitable. He is supposed to be the author of all these damnable plans.

N^o. X.

From Trichinopoly.

MY DEAR SIR,

I GOT yours of the 2nd instant from Trichindore. I expect the answer from Madras to-day about the Court-Martial, and if it arrives, I shall set off to-morrow, and be at Pallamcottah the 10th.

I have the strongest reasons, which I will explain hereafter, for assuring you, that I think your presence

with the Corps highly expedient, and would wish you to return to Pallamcottah as early as convenient.

(Signed) ALEX. DYCE.

7th December, 1806.

N^o. XI.

From Courtallum.

(PRIVATE).

MY DEAR SIR,

I AM favoured with yours of the 12th, and shall be extremely sorry if your early return to Pallamcottah proves in any way disadvantageous to the health and comfort of your family.

From the various important and authentic matter which came out in clear evidence at the inquiry into the plot at Nundydroog, the most serious and well-grounded apprehensions may be entertained of the fidelity of our Native Army in general. It would appear that all the Native Officers, except one Subadar, and nearly the whole of the five Companies at that place (Hindoos and Parriahs, as well as Mus-sulmen) had engaged in the conspiracy, under the direction and instigation of Facqueers from the north of India, many of whom are spread all over the country, promoting the same cause—the accomplishment of a prophecy, foretelling the total extirpation of the Europeans from India in this year.

At the moment that this was on the eve of taking place at Nundydroog, the other five Companies at

Bangalore completely deceived Lieutenant-Colonel Ogg, by their respectful behaviour, and appearance of *happiness and content* among them; and he wrote to Head-Quarters, to say he had no suspicions of the loyalty of his people—but *these very men had then been sworn to support the insurgents at Nundydroog, by a similar conspiracy at Bangalore*. The information was given by two Subadars, one belonging to the five Companies under Major Muirhead, and the other a pensioned Subadar, formerly of the 5th Battalion; and the plot thereby happily defeated.

The Jemadar Adjutant turned King's Evidence, and unfolded a plot of the most alarming tenor.

The Native Officers were the leaders and first conspirators.

The plan is supposed to have been traced in Holkar's camp, and to include the Nizam's brother, Tippoo's sons, and some *others* nearer home.

It appears in Evidence, that the agents were at work six months before the publication of the Code of Regulations; consequently the turbans were brought in as auxiliaries, and not principal, in the cause.

During my last residence at Trichinopoly, I detected two Facqueers from the north of India actively employed in the same object; and another travelled Facqueer of this country, who is now very busy with the 2nd Battalion 16th Regiment, and which person attached himself to Farran's Corps at Shanganacoile, and followed them to Trichinopoly. The subject of

their conversation with the men, is the usurpations of the Europeans, their small numbers, the facility of destroying them at once, the powerful army of Holkar, and other Mahrattas, and the warlike character of the French, contrasted with that of the English, represented merely as merchants, &c. These men are not yet seized, but are narrowly watched, and I imagine the discovery of them will be followed by many more.

Strong suspicions are now entertained by some (not the Government), of the loyalty of Poorniah in Mysore, &c.

All these circumstances excite much anxiety, and demand much vigilance. Every Officer is expected to be at his post as much as possible; and Colonel Campbell was directed to dispatch the Members of the General Court-Martial instantly to their Corps. Such are the heads of my motives, in desiring your return. It will be right to shew no suspicion, but to have at the same time a most watchful eye in all directions.

Pray order the Gentoo Havildar you got from the 16th Battalion, who is now at Shanganacoile, to join the Corps, under any reason you please. He is wanted at Pallamcottah, not to be absent, or excused duty, but to remain there.

Yours truly,

1344.

(Signed) ALEX. DYCE.

P. S.—I have seen all the Official Papers, with General Macdowal's Report on the affair. A tri-coloured

flag was one day, at gun-fire, found flying on the staff at Seringapatam—no body knew how it came there!!!

N^o. XII.

From Courtallum.

(PRIVATE).

MY DEAR SIR,

I ENCLOSE a Letter from Colonel Agnew, which relates to persons in your Corps.

His first, regarding the brothers of Noor Mahomed, applies also to those of Sheik Adom's, particularly the eldest, of whom I am very suspicious. Send back the Letter.

Yours truly,

(Signed) ALEX. DYCE.

P. S.—Enclosed are eleven star pagodas, which I had almost forgot to pay to you, on Major Trotter's account.

N^o. XIII.

From Courtallum.

MY DEAR SIR,

YOUR Letter of yesterday, containing an account of the blood found at the church, &c. is, I think, too open to be serious.

I am inclined to think the offer of a reward would not lead to the discovery of the actors, and it may therefore be omitted; but I think the ghost might and

ought to be taken hold of, by some means or other :
he could, I dare say, tell of some accomplices.

Every endeavour, however, to find out the origin of
their intrigues should be used.

Christians or Bramins are most to be relied on in
such attempts : Hindoos, or even Parriars, are to be
suspected in some degree.

I shall return in a few days to Pallamcottah, perhaps
on the 25th.

I wish particularly to know who are the three emis-
saries you allude to—does it come home to them, and
can they be seized ?

Yours truly,

18th.

(Signed) ALEX. DYCE.

N^o. XIV.

From Courtallum.

MY DEAR SIR,

I AM in utter darkness ; no Letter
from you since yesterday at noon.

Let me hear from you by some means or other. I
hope our Tappall still goes regularly.

“ Je mèn irai ce soir, a Chocampetty ou jättendrai
“ de vos nouvelles.”

Yours truly,

(Signed) ALEX. DYCE.

21st November, 1806.

Explanation of the latter Paragraph.

“ I shall go this evening to Chocampetty, where I
“ will wait for intelligence from you.”

N

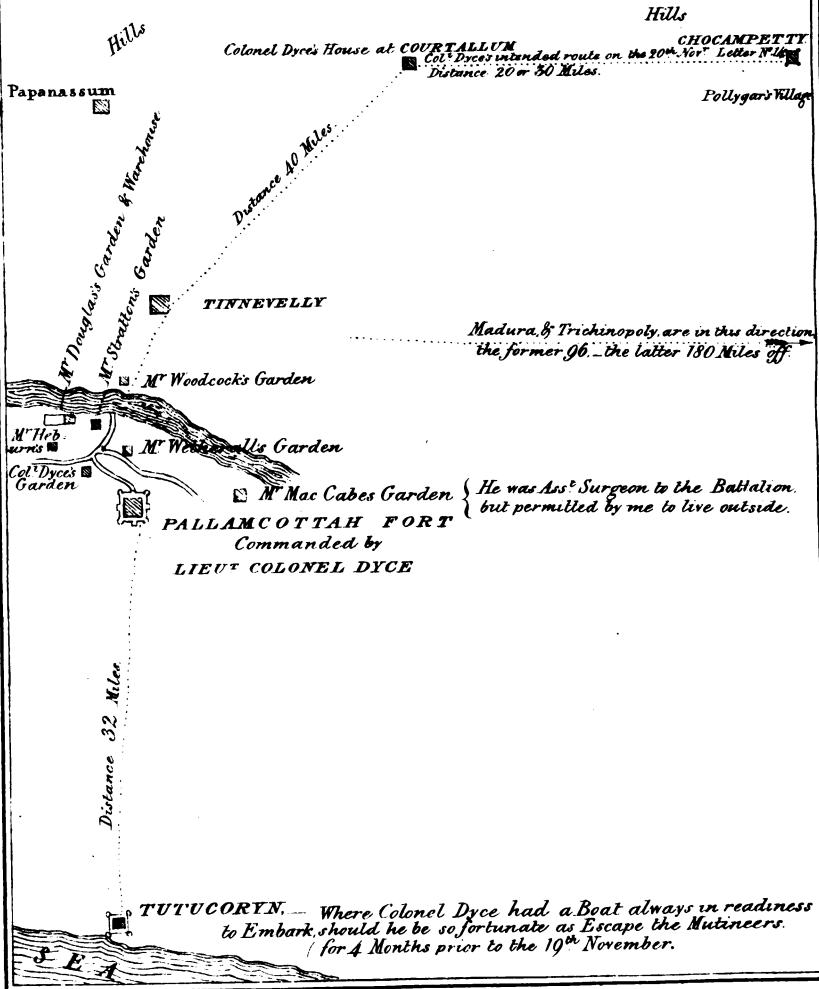
No. XV.

Extract of a Garrison Order, issued by Lieutenant-Colonel Dyce, dated Pallamcottah, Wednesday, November, 1806.

LIEUTENANT-COLONEL DYCE has received from Major Welsh a most satisfactory and pleasing report, of the zeal and alacrity with which the Officers of the Garrison have supported the fatiguing and incessant duties required from them, during the present emergency. Lieutenant-Colonel Dyce has had the pleasure to observe a continuance of the same spirited and honorable interest in supporting the public cause; and he trusts, that in expecting from them an increased vigilance, and assiduous attention, it is merely necessary for him to state, that he deems the *existing circumstances* to be such as demand all our circumspection, and the exertion of every energy. He therefore expects and requests the utmost precision and correctness in the discharge of every duty; nor can he omit to entreat, that even a minute attention may be paid, to exact appearance and conformity respecting dress and arms, to the prescribed regulations of the Service. Lieutenant-Colonel Dyce attaches an importance to *appearances*, at the present moment of the highest interest, which he is well assured every Gentleman will fully appreciate. Every Officer in Garrison will be considered in constant readiness for

S K E T C H .

Showing the relative situations
of
Chocampetty, Courtallum, Pallamcottah & Tutucoryn.



Smith, Elder & C^o lth. 65 Cornhill.

duty, and to be at all times, both night and day, completely dressed and armed. Such orders as Major Welsh may occasionally give, to be obeyed. None of the *dismissed** men to be allowed to enter the Fort.

(A true Extract),

(Signed) **J. WILSON,**
Lieut. & Adj. 1st Bat. 3rd Reg.

Acknowledged by Colonel Dyce in open Court.

* These men were never *dismissed* by me.

An Extract copied from the Proceedings of the Court of Inquiry, held on the 6th December at Pallamcottah.*

PRESIDENT :

LIEUTENANT-COLONEL DYCE.

MAJOR SCOTT, 4th Reg. } Members. { CAPT. NEWALL, 4th Reg.
CAPT. BIRCH, Ditto. } { LIEUT. ROBERTSON, Ditto.

The Court is informed, that a Proclamation was made at *an early period* of the late disturbances in Pallamcottah, offering a reward of 500 star pagodas, with indemnity, to any person who would give intelligence, or bring proof of the alleged conspiracy; but that *no one has come forward to this day*†.

(Here followed Copy of my Letter of the 25th November, and Twenty-one Depositions).

The Court finds itself compelled, in this paucity of direct Evidence, to resort to such presumptive proofs

• With Notes by Major Welsh. (Produced and read to the General Court-Martial in my Defence, but returned to me again, as being unconnected with the Charges against me).

† The reason is obvious—the two first Witnesses (from vague suspicions formed by Colonel Dyce and others) were publicly confined for three days in sight of the mutineers; and it was sedulously rumoured abroad, that no proofs had been obtained—even the wording of the Proclamation assured the Natives that sufficient evidence had not been adduced; and to close the whole, Lieutenant-Colonel Dyce (by his dubash custory) called upon all the Native Inhabitants to sign a *voluntary* address and assurance of their loyalty and attachment to the British Government, which he himself framed in English, and gave to Mr. Stratton to be translated into the country languages.

Let any man read the Vellore Report and Depositions, and see whether any Native ever came forward, except one, to give information before the massacre, or any after, except prisoners (to save their own lives), when it was too late to deny the fact.

as can be obtained, towards establishing the existence of dissatisfaction, cabal, and improper influence and authority exercised by the senior Subadar, Sheik Hyder, and the Native Officers in general.

On this head much parole Evidence has been adduced, which occupied the time of the Court, without illustrating the subject; nor has the Proceedings of two days brought any new matter to light.

Captain Pepper, of the 1st Battalion 3rd Regiment, attending on the part of Major Welsh, delivered the following Statement to the Court, corroborating and explaining some of the points contained in Major Welsh's Letter to Lieutenant-Colonel Dyce; he also delivered to the Court the following corroborating Statement, signed by Lieutenant Gore.

(Here followed Captain Pepper's and Lieutenant Gore's Depositions, in writing).

Captain Pepper having further proposed some questions to Messrs. Stratton and Hepburn, in confirmation of Major Welsh's detail, the written answers are annexed to the Appendix, signed by them respectively; as the Court did not consider these documents of sufficient importance to be introduced in the body of its Reports. As nothing further, within the knowledge of the Court, can be brought at this moment in evidence of the guilt of the Native Officers, it has judged it to be proper to interrogate them on some points adduced in Major Welsh's Letter to Lieutenant-

Colonel Dyce, and by the Depositions taken by Mr. Stratton, the Judge of the Zillah.

The Havildar Major Mahomed Eshack is accordingly called into Court, and questioned*.

Q.—Is the declaration which you made and signed before Mr. Stratton, the same as that you have now read; and are those the words you used on that occasion?

A.—Yes.

In stating the occurrence of the 19th ultimo, the Havildar Major observed, that he was directed to accompany Subadar Sheik Hyder to Mr. Stratton's, on a cause then before the Zillah Court; but after the Subadar had received the order from Major Welsh to that effect, he found himself unwell, and desired the Havildar to go to Major Welsh, and acquaint him that he, the Subadar, was unable to go, on account of sickness, and begged that Subadar Sheik Nutter be sent in his room. Major Welsh, however, desired Sheik Hyder to proceed, as he had ordered; that this

* Vide his Deposition, No. XIII.

Here I beg leave to remark, that the Havildar Major was not only intimate with Subadar Sheik Hyder, but a brother of Subadar Sheik Nutter's. Confined as they were in the same place for many days, they of course were able to make up one story, and even to swear to abide by it. I am firmly of opinion, that the Deposition given by the Havildar Major, was determined on by the whole, as a plausible tale to blind us, with regard to the more serious matter set forth in the Butler's Deposition; and it succeeded entirely with the Court of Inquiry, who, of course, did not know any thing further than what came before them at this examination. His allusion to the mutiny at Vellore, made use of by *Sheik Hyder*, stands single, and not one of the indifferent Evidences has accused him of it.

circumstance occasioned some delay, which was increased by having to search for the necessary Witnesses, some of whom being sick, required doolies; that *this was again reported**; causing altogether a delay of about one hour and a half.

SHEIK HYDER, *Subadar, being called into Court, the following Questions are put to him.*

Q—What conversation passed between you, the Havildar Major, the *Facqueer Loll Shah*, and the Butler, in the evening of the 16th November, both before you made the usual Report to Major Welsh, and afterwards?

A.—Nearly similar to the declaration of the Havildar Major, but positively denies his having alluded in any way to the mutiny at Vellore, and softening that part wherein he is charged with having asserted, “*that the Major and all the Gentlemen were afraid of his flag†;*” and by declaring that he only repeated the

* *This I positively deny: the Subadar came only once, and the Havildar once after him, when attended, as I have already stated, in my Note to the Official Report.—Note to Par. 8, Letter A, p. 147, of this Appendix.*

† If it were possible that *I could have been so abject a wretch* as this man had attempted to make me, I should deserve, not only all I have suffered, but the abhorrence of every man of spirit in the Army—so far from this, when I spoke to them about the flag, &c. I appealed to them for a knowledge of my kind conduct to the Corps; of my having frequently led them to victory, and evinced a spirit, which must convince them, that no personal motives of fear could influence my conduct, when I declared to them that the reports in circulation were false, and their alarms groundless; that so far from carrying into effect any orders to degrade them, I would at all times stand forward and defend their just rights, even with my life. I called

words which Major Welsh had himself used, in presence of several of the Native Officers, on a former occasion.

Q.—What was the cause of your delaying to carry to Mr. Stratton a Note which Major Welsh gave you on the morning of the 19th, after breakfast, with express orders to deliver it immediately?

A.—It was necessary to collect some Witnesses, which caused delay, and two of the Evidence required doolies to carry them: this occasioned a reference to Major Welsh, who finally ordered me to proceed without them, by which an hour and a half were lost.

Subadar SHEIK NUTTER, is called into Court.

Q.—On the 19th ultimo when Major Welsh and the other Officers had gone to the Barrack, and given order to the Sepoys *to fall in without arms*, for what purpose or motive were you about to load a musket, as observed by Major Welsh?

A.—I did not load, or attempt to load a musket*.

Q.—Was you in Major Welsh's quarter about four months ago, when the Major explained to the Native Officers the falsehood of the reports in circulation among the Troops, about Europeans coming from Trichinopoly, and other idle stories—if you were, say

upon them solemnly for a renewal of their confidence in their European Officers, and their reliance on the justice of Government. How cruelly my words have been perverted! I only hinted at the flag among other things.—Vide Captain Pepper's Evidence, page 79 of my Trial.

* This is a positive falsehood, as I hope to establish by Evidence.

what passed, and what the Major said about a flag flying at the Mosque?

A.—I was not present, being on guard. I heard Sheik Hyder mention some particulars, and he also stated, that the Major had said he was displeased and alarmed at the flag then hoisted.

Q.—Did Sheik Hyder communicate to you any orders from Major Welsh, respecting the affair at Nundydroog, and the precautions to be used in consequence?

A.—He did not say any thing on the subject*.

Subadar ABDUL NUBBY, is called into Court.

Q.—Were you present at the meeting of the Native Officers, called by Major Welsh about four months ago, when Major Welsh mentioned something particular about a flag at the Mosque?

A.—Yes; among other points, Major Welsh said the flag had alarmed him.

Q.—Did Sheik Hyder communicate to you any orders from Major Welsh, respecting the affair at Nundydroog, &c.?

A.—He did not say any thing on the subject†.

* Does not this appear suspicious, and that he had then some malicious plan in view?

† Here I solemnly affirm (and Sheik Hyder confessed it, though the Court deemed it too trifling for insertion), that I desired Sheik Hyder to convene the other Native Officers on the 12th November, and after informing them of the Nundydroog story (as it was then current), to call on them (one and all) to keep a sharp look-out after Facqueer incendiaries, and should any such attempt to corrupt the Sepoys, to bring them to me. I trust the confidence I placed in the *Native Officers*, was perfectly consistent with His Excellency's circular Orders on that subject. I have only to lament that *ours* were unworthy of it.

On the subject of the flag* hoisted at the Mosque, which has been so frequently mentioned, the Court thought it a duty to ascertain if it had any thing novel or suspicious in its appearance or form, or if it was merely an established flag, usually hoisted at such places of worship.

From every information it could obtain, the Court is disposed to think it was certainly of the latter description, and in itself of no importance, further than as it was referred to in the intemperate expressions of Sheik Hyder.

In taking a review of the various Documents and Evidence brought forward on the subject of this Inquiry, it is difficult to separate the impression which the whole, blended as it is, has necessarily made on the judgment of this Court, regarding the dissatisfaction and insubordination of the Corps in general, in contradistinction to the single question of the guilt of the Native Officers; nor perhaps were it possible, could it be accomplished, without violating the soundest principles; for it cannot be admitted, that dissatis-

* I am willing to allow, that the Court had not sufficient means to ascertain this point. I also made it *my duty* to inquire, not only in the Corps, but at Madras; and I hope to make it appear to this Court, that the flag in question was not a *simple* and *religious one*, but that it was hoisted as the signal of revolt and murder, and that it was taken down secretly on the night of the 5th August (after the Native Officers had assured me that it was an *annual one*), after which the *usual annual flag* of Cawder Wallie (which the Court took such pains to ascertain) was hoisted in open day, and remained flying till the 20th November, when pulled down by a party of my Hindoo Sepoys. A reference to my Defence will prove the difference of the flags in question.

faction could be widely disseminated in a Corps, without a participation, or at least a criminal knowledge, of the Native Officers.

The existence of dissatisfaction is established by expressions, neither doubtful nor trivial, proved by Witnesses whose veracity cannot be questioned, to have frequently been used by Sepoys; by tumultuary meetings amongst them; and by an universal and apparent uneasiness.

In declaring an opinion on the degree of guilt which attaches to the Native Officers, this Court feels it also to be a duty to have it distinctly understood, that such opinion does not embrace, or in any measure affect, the question respecting Major Welsh's conduct on the 19th November, which was governed by a multifarious combination of circumstances, exciting strong suspicions of disaffection throughout the Corps, but which have not the same force, when applied to the insulated object now before the Court.

The direct Evidence given by Major Welsh's Butler, appears to be so greatly invalidated by the *known existence* of jealousy, and of a quarrel between him and Subadar Sheik Hyder, in consequence of the detection of a fraud of the Butler's brother* on Major Welsh,

* The Court has here asserted the opinion of Lieutenant-Colonel Dyce, who, himself unacquainted with the Native languages, supposed it impossible for Moormen to speak Malabars. I positively deny the existence of jealousy on the part of my Butler, or that his brother was ever detected in any fraud on me, or by me. The Court has kindly taken Sheik Hyder's word for it—the *known existence* is therefore a mere surmise, without any foundation,

many months ago; by the traitorous conversation of Mussulmen being said to be in *Tamul*, and by the Butler's ignorance of Hindoostanee, that no credence can be given to it.

The Evidence of Ramasawmy is neither conclusive, or perhaps deserving of much attention. But the positive and unvarying Depositions regarding the menaces of Subadar Sheik Hyder on the 16th November at Major Welsh's godowns, in presence of several Native Officers, and many Non-Commissioned, corroborated and strengthened as they are by the attested and signed declarations of Mahomed Eshack, Havildar Major (a near connexion of the Subadar's) which he again confirmed before this Court; are of such a nature, as leaves no doubt in the mind, of the most intemperate passions having agitated his breast, when he dared to hold up in terror the mutiny at Vellore; to defame and debase the character of his Commanding Officer, and the other Gentlemen of the Corps, by representing them as being frightened at his colours, and even to hazard a threat, that his power could be terrible!!

and I defy the Court of Inquiry to prove it. The Court has allowed some weight to the expressions of Subadar *Secunder Cawn*, and they were in direct corroboration of this man's Evidence.

Note added on board the Indus.—A reference to the different Depositions taken at Vellore, Wallajahbad, Nundydroog, &c. will prove the validity of the Butler's Evidence: yet the words of the ringleaders of mutiny have been taken, and his faithful testimony rejected. The Havildar Major, if not the chief, was certainly next to Sheik Hyder in the plot.

It has further appeared to this Court, that the authority* assumed and exercised by this person, was wholly incompatible with due subordination; that his influence, acquired in a series of years, was unlimited; and that, under these circumstances, the most dangerous results might have been expected from such criminal language, addressed to men already known to have been in a state of irritation and discontent.

The Court thinks it proper further to state, that Subadar Sheik Hyder's demeanour and appearance before it, impressed the strongest idea of *his own internal conviction of guilt*.

It does not, however, mean to assume it as established in proof, or as carrying conviction to the understanding, that this menace of the Subadar's was expressly intended to stimulate the Mussulmen to the dreadful excesses to which he alluded, or even to excite disaffection. But it was uttered under circumstances which nothing can palliate; and whether it arose from the intoxication of folly and of power, or from the more hidden purposes of treason, its criminality, and its dangerous tendency, are equally evident.

The establishment of such facts against the leading Native Officer of the Corps, gives a weight to relative incidents, although unsupported by adequate Evidence;

* The authority which this Native Officer was permitted publicly to exercise, was that of Adjutant Subadar, having been appointed to that situation by Lieutenant-Colonel Sheppard in 1802; but the Jemadar Adjutant of the Corps having been sick in hospital for several months, he did all the duty, and kept the Roster, &c

nor can the Court omit to mention the *suspicious conduct of Subadar Sheik Nutter, in loading a musket*, as stated by Major Welsh, and the confession of Subadar Secunder Cawn, in the moment of apprehension and seizure, of the flagitious proposal of Sheik Hyder at the Mosque, as deserving of considerable attention; although both these points are denied by the Subadar, and *in the former instance the denial is supported by Evidence**.

Against the other Native Officers no direct Charge has appeared.

(Signed) A. DYCE,
R. SCOT,
D. NEWALL,
G. BIRCH,
W. M. ROBERTSON.

Pallamcottah,
21st December, 1806.

Note.—It must appear evident how much I was interested in these Proceedings (which Government endeavoured to withhold from me), where my character was attacked without reply; and future perusers of these Proceedings would have set me down for a silly coward, who had acknowledged my *fears*, even to the authors, and of course was justly deprived of a Command I was no longer fit to hold.

(Signed) J. W.

* I beg leave to observe, that if the Committee were possessed of the *Evidence* here asserted to have been produced, they have not given it a place in the Report of their Proceedings. I must therefore be excused for doubting the existence of this point; and shall bring forward Evidence to prove my *assertions*, which, however, the Court has been so kind as *credit*, under every disadvantage, from the nature of the Inquiry, wherein only the prisoners could be investigated, the Corps being away, and only one Officer (Captain Pepper) present to confront them.

Vouchers sent by Captain Pepper for the Court of Inquiry at Pallamcottah, as stated in my Letter to Lieut.-Col. Dyce, of the 12th December—(vide p. 31).*

Questions to be proposed in my name :

1st, To the Havildar Major—You have stated that Sheik Hyder desired you all to assist in complaining against my Butler, for striking a Facqueer—if one of this description were to go into your house (or any man) during your absence, and abuse your wife, what would you do ?

2nd, If a Facqueer quarrels with any person, is it the business of every Moorman to espouse his quarrel ?

To each of the Native Officers—

Did Subadar Sheik Hyder ever tell you of any conversation I had with him, about Nundydroog—and what was it ?

To Subadar Sheik Nutter—

1st, What conversation had you with the Havildar Major in prison, respecting Sheik Hyder ?

* The Proceedings of this Court of Inquiry (which I obtained with much difficulty) contained a Copy of my Official Report to Lieutenant-Colonel Dyce, and Twenty-one Depositions taken on Oath by Messrs. Stratton, Hepburn, and myself; as also the written Depositions of Captain Pepper and Lieutenant Gore, copies of which are already in my possession. As all the principal Evidences will be examined by the Court-Martial, I thought it better to omit the various Documents, to save time and trouble.

It may be necessary here to declare, that the expression of Sheik Hyder regarding the flag (or any part of the circumstances connected with it), never came to my knowledge, till long after the Corps was disarmed by me; and had I been acquainted with it, I should only have put him in arrest, and brought him *alone* to trial for it. I should not have supposed it any proof of the disaffection of the Corps—a Corps I had every reason to believe firmly attached to me, from personal, as well as public motives.

Madras, February 25, 1807.

(Signed) J. WELSH.

2nd and 3rd, The two questions to the Havildar Major to be repeated, respecting quarrelling with a Facqueer.

4th, Did Sheik Hyder ever advise you and the rest of the Corps to wear the new turban*?

Question to Mr. Stratton, and also Mr. Hepburn—

1st, Did I, on waiting upon you with Mr. Hepburn on the 18th November, mention any thing about a man called Eitwaur Syng; and if so, what was it?

(Signed) J. WELSH.

2nd, Did I mention to you any particular person whom I supposed to be an incendiary, and promise to endeavour to point him out to your people for apprehension, under the orders you had received from Government?

Question to Subadar Sheik Hyder—

1st, What reason had you for telling Captain Wilson and myself, that you were ready to embrace our religion, wear a topie, and eat our food, to prove your fidelity?

2nd, Had I, or any Officer, ever asked you to change your religion, or do any thing contrary to your caste or customs?

3rd, Did you not tell me that the *Tindal* and my Butler must have told against you, to make me suppose you guilty?

4th, What reason had you to suppose the *Tindal* could tell any thing against you?

5th, Did you mention all the circumstances of Nundydroog I told you in confidence (to the Battalion

* This might be put to several.

as I desired you), and take steps to prevent the influence of designing Facqueers, who were suspected to be moving about the country, on purpose to lead the Natives from their duty, by falsehood and exaggeration?

6th, Did you ever tell me, that the men or Officers of the Corps were averse to wearing the new turban?

Before his answer is received—I hereby solemnly declare upon my honor, that he assured me, that every Native Officer and every Non-Commissioned in the Corps liked them, and most of the men also, but that (as I had assured them that there was no occasion to wear them if not approved) a few men said (in consequence) they preferred their old ones; but he still offered to wear them, and said that three men had put them on, and paraded for inspection. He never hinted that a murmur had been heard in the Corps; and at the time of their first arrival, persuaded me to turn out 160 drafts as suspicious persons, among whom there was not one Moorman, excepting two or three silly Lubbehs.

After he was confined, I advised him to confess freely, and rely on my honor for pardon, telling him that he knew a great deal from Letters; when he seemed much alarmed, and said that one of his Letters from *Wallajahbad**, I think, might have been inter-

* Wallajahbad and Chingleput are not far distant from each other, and only about thirty miles from Vellore.—(Vide Note to Deposition XXI.; also vide Deposition No. X.)

cepted, and that the story in it referred to twenty pagodas which he had given the writer, a Subadar, for the marriage of his daughter. As to Secunder Cawn, I have stated in my Public Letter, on the night of the 19th November, that he only heard Sheik Hyder "say once in the Mosque, that we were all to be killed." This I believe to be true, as he only returned about the 15th from two months' leave to Madura, and of course could not have had time to meet the conspirator often. Lieutenant Gore was present with me, and heard part of what Secunder Cawn said; and I appeal to Mr. Stratton and Mr. Hepburn for my expressions immediately after. ,

Lieutenant Gore has furnished a few occurrences, to which he was an eye-witness, and Captain Pepper can speak as to several corroborating circumstances with regard to the evening parade of the 18th, the appearances on the morning of the 19th, and the behaviour of Sheik Nutter on the 16th.

And here I think it essentially necessary to state some remarks which I noted down opposite to the paragraph in the copy of my Public Letter, regarding Subadar Sheik Nutter (vide Letter A). "When authentic intelligence had been received of the tragical transactions at Vellore, I assembled all the Native Officers, and told them the whole story. As soon as I had mentioned the number of Officers and Europeans butchered in cold blood, Subadar Sheik Nutter grinned in the most horrid manner—it was a

“ *grin of delight* of the most diabolical appearance ;
 “ and was so much impressed on my mind, that I men-
 “ tioned it to several Gentlemen at the time ; and on
 “ the 15th instant, in consequence of a Sepoy of the
 “ Light Company having come to me in an improper
 “ manner, and insisted on my giving him leave, I spoke
 “ to the Cöte Havildar about the impropriety of
 “ allowing a man to come in that manner. Next
 “ morning I was too ill to attend parade. Captain
 “ Pepper commanded, and when he had dismissed the
 “ Battalion, informed me that Subadar Sheik Nutter
 “ and others came forward, and said they had com-
 “ plaint to make to me ; in particular Sheik Nutter
 “ was presumptory, and said I had abused him in
 “ consequence of the Sepoy’s misconduct. Captain
 “ Pepper told them, this was not a proper method ;
 “ that I was unwell ; but that he would mention it
 “ to me. I sent for Sheik Nutter in presence of Sheik
 “ Hyder, and asked him what cause of complaint I
 “ had given him—he put his hands together in a *sup-*
 “ *plicating posture*, and assured me he had none ;
 “ talking in much too humble a style for a Soldier. I
 “ supposed him in liquor, and sent him away satisfied.”

As to Sied Cawder*, it was stated by Ramasawmy,
 that he (under the denomination of the Shanganacoile
 Subadar) was present at the conversation in the street
 at night ; he was known to have constant intercourse

* This is the Subadar who has now got a palankin from Colonel
 Conway.

with Facqueers and Sheik Hyder; and the boy Ramasawmy positively declared to me and Mrs. Welsh, that when he heard the treasonable words he stated on oath, he saw and knew Sheik Hyder and Sied Cawder in the crowd, as also Subadar Sheik Hussein (who went mad while confined). This boy on oath only stated, that he asked two men, who told him their names: he was always intimate with Sheik Hyder, and I am convinced was an agent to watch our motions; his coming forward was therefore merely to screen himself the first day, when he supposed we had discovered all; the next day, learning how matters were, he was induced to soften off his Evidence.

(Signed) J. WELSH.

As I think it may be of considerable importance to ascertain from Messrs. Stratton and Hepburn—who were present, not only during the whole time of the transaction referred to, but examined every Evidence, and were made acquainted with every circumstance which came to my knowledge—what their opinion is, individually, with regard to the guilt or innocence of the whole Corps, and especially of Sheik Hyder, the Havildar Major, Secunder Cawn, and Abdul Nubby: I could wish the following question to be put to them, and their answers recorded.

1st, From all the various circumstances that have come to your knowledge in the last month, and from the Witness you examined, are you of opinion that

your lives were endangered by the actual existence of a plot, or not, until the steps taken had removed the ringleaders from the Corps?—or some such question.

2nd, If answered in the affirmative, then to ask, Do you think the Evidence attaches guilt to any individuals—if so, will you mention their names?

It may be objected, that the Court are to form their own opinions, and not be swayed by those of others in this case—of course it must be over-ruled, and I shall call for the same elsewhere.

(Signed) J. WELSH.

Note.—This Voucher was rejected by the Court, and returned to Captain Pepper. It will appear that little notice was taken of it, by perusing the Proceedings.
(Signed) J. W.

A true Copy of the Extract and Notes produced by me, and read to the General Court-Martial in my Defence.
(Signed) J. W.

H. C. Ship Indus, at Sea, August 27, 1807.

Note.—The Papers laid before the General Court-Martial end here. The following Documents did not appear before it at all, though most of them were before the Court of Inquiry at Pallamcottah. The Notes to all the Depositions, as far as Deposition XIX. were made by me in the month of December, 1806, on the road to Trichinopoly, where I expected to have to produce them, in justification of the measures I had adopted. They were written in a hurried manner, as I did not conceive it would require much argument on my part, to point out the necessity of acting as I had done; and yet, to those unacquainted with the case, some explanation might be necessary.

DEPOSITION No. I.

Butler IYEN PERMAUL, of Madura, aged 25, duly sworn, deposes as follows :

Two or three days ago, Mrs. Welsh gave me orders to the following purport: that if I would bring news in the village, my master would give me a handsome present, having heard that the Mussulmen were consulting together. I accordingly, on the 18th November, went secretly to the place where the Facqueer lived, who came from Vellore, having taken off my clothes, and put on the semblance of a beggar. Hyder Saib, Subadar, first came to him, sat down, and said as follows :

Five months ago the flag was hoisted, on which all Mussulmen thought the country their own. It is now two months that you are here waiting. I have received a Letter from Southward—the white men will all be *destroyed* (or, as literal as possible, be spoilt) in ten days: they are not now as formerly; we are now to receive double pay, and a Letter has been written and received from the French, Mogul, and Nabob, and other people, to kill the Gentlemen, for which reason the Hindoos will not join us. All the Mussulmen have joined to kill the Gentlemen in ten days. He then sent for three Subadars, and mentioned this to them. They said, Let it be so. The Major Havildar came last; he told him the same; to be merely passive—I will in ten days assemble all the Mussulmen, and

kill the Gentlemen. Saying this, they separated, after agreeing to meet the next morning at Sheik Hyder's house—that morning I came to the lady, who gives me victuals, and told her this. Besides this, I know no more.

Q.—Did the conversation you mention to have taken place between the Facqueer and the Sirdars, take place during the night or day?

A.—On the 18th November, at night, from ten o'clock until two.

Q.—Mention the names of the Sirdars?

A.—Sheik Hyder, Subadar; Secunder Cawn, Subadar; Mucdoom, Subadar; Abdul Nubby, Subadar; and the Major Havildar*.

Q.—Do you know whether these Sirdars have administered any seditious oath to the Mussulmen and Hindoo Sepoys?

A.—I do not know whether they have administered any oath. Sheik Hyder, Subadar, sent three Hindoo Jemadars on command, under an idea that they would not join them.

Pallamcottah, } (Signed) IYEN PERMAUL.
20th November, 1806.

Sworn to and signed in presence of

(Signed) GEO. STRATTON,
Magistrate.

Witnessed by

J. HEPBURN,
J. WELSH.

* He pointed them out, after describing them to the Committee, who inserted their names afterwards.—J. WELSH.

Second Examination, Three Days after.

The Examination of IYEN PERMAUL, after being duly sworn.

Q.—In the Deposition you before gave, you stated that you had orders from the lady to report the news of the village, and that you knew that some conversations were passing between the Moormen—by what means did you find out such conversation had passed?

A.—On the 15th of November, at night, I came out of my house to make water, when Sheik Hyder, Subadar, and two other Subadars, whose names I know not, and the Facqueer, were conversing together, as follows: “The former business seems of no use, and “it is now quiet; we must now act agreeable to “the Letter received from the Southward; come to- “morrow, and we will talk together.” On this they dispersed, and the above I heard. I went to the same place twice after, but then there was no conversation. The third day they conversed, and having heard what passed, I related the whole to the Major’s Lady.

Q.—In what language did the conversation take place, which you first heard?

A.—In Malabars they conversed.

Q.—In what language did they converse the second time, in the night of the 18th?

A.—They conversed that time also in Malabars.

Q.—You have twice stated, that the Mussulmen

only conversed together—what reason could there be for Mussulmen to converse in Malabars ?

A.—The Mussulmen can speak both Malabars and Moors—at these times they spoke Malabars.

Q.—Did it not strike you as extraordinary, that Mussulmen should converse on such a subject in Malabars ?

A.—They speak both Moors and Malabars, and I therefore was not surprized.

Q.—Where did they converse together, in the night of the 18th, outside or inside the Mosque ?

A.—There is a well near the Mosque, near which there is a house ; there are walls to the east and west of it : as they came into that house, I pretended to be asleep near a well to the southward of the Mosque ; they followed each other into the house : while they were talking near the door of the house, I went and stood near a gate, to the westward of the Mosque.

Q.—Where did they converse together in the night of the 15th ?

A.—In the same house : I stood near the house, outside the Mosque, and overheard them.

Q.—We have learnt by the Depositions of several, that you and a Facqueer had a dispute together—state the particulars of that dispute.

A.—On the 17th of November, after tea-time, I went home—my wife told me the following circumstances: she said a Facqueer came and took away the

bratties I had: I asked him why he took it; he said, "Why do you ask? I choose to take it." In this way he disputed it, and went away. Handy, a palankin boy, went and told the Facqueer that I had sent for him; placing him near the door, he called out to me and said, "The Facqueer is come." I came out, and said, "What reason have you to quarrel here with a woman, while no one else is in the house?"—"What did I say? Go," said he. Three Lascars of the General Stores were near my house; I asked them what had passed. They said, "This Facqueer talked to your wife, as one would to one who had had her price." They further said, "He is in fault." I struck him one blow on the head, and said, "What business had you to do so?" and told him to go away. On that I went into the house, took off my clothes and turban, and came out again. The Facqueer then again made his appearance, and said, "See what I will have done with you; I will throw dirt into your mouth, and in two or three days kill you." On that I said in answer, "If you kill me, my master will destroy your Mosque and your house." After that I went to my master's house. The Havildars, Subadars, Jemadars, &c. people came there afterwards at six o'clock, to make their report; they came and stood near the godown, sent for me, and said, "Why did you beat the Facqueer?" I said, "He used improper language at my house during my absence, for which reason I beat him."—They asked, "How

"came you to beat a person living at the Mosque?" I answered, "If a Facqueer asks for my wife, why should I give her to him, or why be afraid of him?" Sheik Hyder, Subadar, on that said, "Why should you, a black man, be afraid? all the Gentlemen are alarmed at the flag I have hoisted at the Mosque." Saying this, he went away. This is what passed.

Q.—What is the Facqueer's name?

A.—I do not know his name*.

Q.—Did the conversation on the 15th and 18th November, take place with that Facqueer, or any other?

A.—It is not that Facqueer, but another.

Q.—Did the Facqueer with whom you had the quarrel, live inside or outside the Fort†?

A.—I do not know whether he lives inside or outside.

Q.—Mention the name of the Facqueer with whom the Mussulmen Subadars and Jemadars conferred on the 15th and 18th November.

A.—I do not know his name.

Q.—In your former Deposition, you stated that Facqueer had come from Vellore—how came you to know he came from Vellore?

A.—At different times he came like a beggar to

* His name was Laull Shah; he was father to a Sepoy in the Corps, and lived in a small mucaun behind the Barracks; he was confined the first day, but released again next day, when I found who he was.—J. W.

† Vide Lieutenant Gore's Deposition, p. 102; Court of Inquiry, p. 67; and Deposition XIII. of this Appendix.

great *Pagoda*; *Wash*, and near the *Idol* put out the *Lamp*, as an *additional oath* to the truth of all you have stated ?

A.—I will take *that oath*.

Pallamcottah,
23rd November, 1806. } (Signed) IYEN PERMAUL.

Sworn to and signed in my presence,

(Signed) GEO. STRATTON,
Magistrate.

Witnessed by

(Signed) J. HEPBURN,
J. WELSH.

Note written on board the Indus, 28th August, 1807.—Before a single Native was examined at Madras, I proposed to the General Court Martial to prove all my Evidences, in this *solemn manner*; but the Court could not perceive any necessity for it. Eitwaur Syng, a Bengal Rajapoot, offered to be confronted with any of the Mussulmen, and to lift a red-hot cannon ball, in proof of the mutiny. (Signed) J. W.

This is an appeal resorted to by the Native powers; on occasions that cannot be clearly proved by Evidence.

Original Note by Major Welsh.—He went with Messrs. Stratton, Hepburn, and myself, to the Mosque, shewed us his own house, the well, the Facqueer's hut, &c.. The well is inside of the Mosque compound, and several small houses have entrances to it on one side; every thing appeared clear as he described it; and the Mosque (from its situation) must have been a more suspicious place than the hut. I solemnly declare, that he never made the smallest complaint to me, against Sheik Hyder or any body, and was a quiet, harmless man, whom I never allowed to interfere in any thing out of his own line. We thought him the least likely to be corrupted or connected with the Corps, which made Mrs. Welsh resolve to trust him with the knowledge of her suspicions of the Facqueers on the 14th, when we had learnt from Colonel Dyce the state of affairs in general, (he having only been with us since our arrival at Madura, on the march to Pallamcottah). Sheik Hyder had endeavoured in private, to persuade me to discharge him, and I believe wanted me to take his own brother in his room; but on inquiry, the information he, Sheik Hyder, gave me, proving false, I still

Part of Barracks.

front

HOSPITAL.

Bazar Street.

Barrack Guard.

Subadar Shickhyder's House.

Native Officers and Inhabitants Huts, &c.

Huts of Native Officers, Sepoys, & Inhabitants.

NB 12 are the places where the Butler took post, when he overheard the Subadar at the Figueira's Hut.

Well

Gate Way

Flag Staff

The Mosque upon an elevated Spot and light always burning all Night inside of it.

Wall

Main Street.

Wall

Garden attached to the Commanding Officers Quarters.

Gate

Railings

Confined Godowns where the old Sub confessed the plot.

Cook Room

Front Verandah, Centinel Room, where the Native Officers were kept confined.

Commanding Officers Quarters occupied by Major Walsh & Family.

Wall

M^r Light's Quarters (Major W^d Brother in Law)

Wall

Barrack Street.

Malabar Huts

Natives Huts

Butler's House.

Door

M^r Sayyer's House.

Rev^d M^r Ringeltaub's House.

Narrow Lane.

General Stores.

Gate

Pay Office

English Church.

General Parade

Part of the Ramparts

Magazine

Empty House

Lieu^t Gore's House.

Smith, Elder & Co 65 Cornhill.

kept him (the Butler never knew this). The proximity of his house to the Mosque, and the Barrack-street, must have been the principal objection against him.

(Signed) J. WELSH.

Madura, 17th December, 1806.

Note after his Examination at Madras.—I believe it is generally known, how very incorrectly even the cleverest Native Interpreters translate or interpret, especially between the Malabars and English; it will not therefore be wondered at, that the Evidence here recorded on the spot (when every thing was fresh in this man's memory), and that produced in the Proceedings, should have some small variation, as four months had intervened; and in all the Trials I superintended, as Judge-Advocate to the Poonah Subsidiary Force, as well as while on staff three years at Ceylon, I never saw a Native who perfectly understood the nature of Question and Answer, or who would not (through ignorance or villany) prevaricate at Cross-questioning. The annexed sketch will serve to illustrate this man's Evidence.

DEPOSITION N^o. II.

*The Examination of SECUNDER KHAN, Subadar, after
being duly sworn.*

On the anniversary of Kawder Olihah, Sheik Hyder hoisted a flag: I said to him, it would be proper first to mention it to the Commanding Officer, and then hoist it. On this he said, I will mention it to the Gentlemen; and laughed. I remained silent. This is all.

Q.—Do you know any thing of the mutiny among the Sirdars in this Battalion?

A.—I do not know any thing.

Q.—Do you know if any Sirdars have sworn any of the Sepoys?

A.—No.

*Pallamcottah,
20th November, 1806.* }

The mark of SECUNDER KHAN,
Subadar.

Signed in presence of

(Signed) G. STRATTON,
Magistrate.

Witnessed by

(Signed) J. HEPBURN,
J. WELSH.

Note.—This man having declared to me the night before, “ that he knew “ no more than that Sheik Hyder had told him once in the Mosque, that all “ the Europeans were to be murdered,” was naturally the first man we called upon to give Evidence, (expecting him to turn *King's Evidence*); but the Tindal, a hardened villain, having been confined with him all night, we supposed had persuaded him to deny it when questioned again.

Madura, Dec. 17, 1806.

(Signed) J. WELSH.

DEPOSITION N^o. III.*Copy of Translation.*

RAMASAWMY, of *Pallamcottah*, aged 19, being sworn,
deposed as follows:

Four of five days ago, during the night, as I was going home, some people were assembled in the Sepoy's street, and conversing together to this purpose—
“That thirty or forty people had left Bala Ghaut;
“that *Tippoo's and the Nabob's** dependents were
“dead; that the French would give double pay; that
“it would be well to kill the white people.” In this way they were talking. They further said, that on the Bala Ghaut's people arriving, there would be confusion. I, upon this, went on. This is what I know. Two village people were standing in the road I took: I asked them who those were conversing together; they said it was the Commandant and the *Subadar*† just come from *Shanganacoile*. To this I said nothing, nor did I mention the story before to my master, but kept it in my breast.

(Signed) RAMASAWMY.

Pallamcottah,
20th November, 1806.

* This is not properly translated.

† Syed Cawder, Palankin Subadar, now with the Rifle Corps.

Another Examination of RAMASAWMY.

Q.—You before stated in your former Deposition, that you overheard the Commandant and other people talking together in the Sepoy's street, while going home at night—in what languages were they conversing?

A.—Seven or eight persons were conversing together in the Mussulmen language.

Q.—You stated in your former Deposition, that two of the village people were present, of whom you asked who the persons were then conversing together—had they been in our service, what occasion was there for you to ask?

A.—From it being night then, and not knowing who they were, I was induced to ask.

Q.—Can you point out the two village people who informed you who those persons were, or mention names?

A.—I can neither point them out, or mention their names.

Q.—You asked the village people who those were conversing together—how came you to suppose they could give you any information?

A.—I did not know that they could inform me, as to who the persons were, but asked them of my own accord.

Q.—While the Sirdars were conversing together, were the village people standing near them, or passing them at the time?

A.—The persons conversing together were in a crowd, as I passed, and the village people about ten paces from them, listening; but whether they heard the words I mentioned, or not, I cannot tell.

Pallamcottah, } (Signed) RAMASAWMY.
23rd November, 1806. }

Sworn to and signed in presence of

(Signed) G. STRATTON,
Magistrate.

Witnessed by

J. WELSH,
J. HEPBURN.

Note.—This boy's Evidence is not to be credited: that he was in the plot, I have not a doubt, for he had been like a spy upon our every action for three months past; many people advised me to turn him off in consequence; but the consideration of his having lost his health with me, in the Athaweesy country, two years ago (when I caught my own fever), always prevented my doing so. I have already stated, that he disappeared that morning, and did not return till we were sitting at breakfast. He never opened his mouth till after he saw me seize all the arms, and bring the Native Officers to my house; when he told Mrs. Welsh and me, that he overheard Sabadars Sheik Hyder, Syed Cawder, Secunder Khan, and several others, talking in the Barrack-street, as he has stated—no mention then of village people; and he knows every Native Officer, and every man of the Corps, having been brought up in it from infancy.

He thought at first we knew every thing, and therefore wanted to save himself: next day he softened it off, and made use of vague expressions to serve the turn.

(Signed) J. WELSH.

Madura, 17th December, 1806.

Note, written on board the Indus, August 31st, 1807.—As soon as this boy was released (with my Butler) from confinement, I turned him off, as a traitor either to his master, or his friends the Moormen, and I have never seen him since: this was at Pallamcottah, in the end of November.

Although his Deposition, and some others, are neither material, or perhaps favourable, I consider it my duty to publish all alike, and they will serve to show, what trifling prevaricating creatures the Natives are in general; as every one, before being sworn, pretended to possess some useful information on the main subject.

(Signed) J. WELSH.

DEPOSITION N^o. IV.

*The Examination of PARYANA, Cook, of Madura, after
being duly sworn.*

Q.—Did you hear the quarrel between the Major's Butler and the Facqueer?

A.—I have heard it.

Q.—State what conversation passed then?

A.—While the Facqueer and Butler were quarrelling, some Subadars, whose names I know not, came to the Major to make their report. The Subadars and Jemadars asked the Butler why he quarrelled with the Facqueer, and why he struck him. The Butler answered, "The Facqueer said he would render my limbs motionless, and kill me. I said, if you kill me, the Gentlemen would destroy the Mosque." On that the Subadar said, "By your and the Facqueer's quarrelling, can my Mosque be destroyed by your means? The Gentlemen are all afraid at the flag I have hoisted;" saying again, "Can you do it?" he went away. This is what passed.

*Pallamcottah,
28th November, 1806.* }

The mark of PARYANA.

Sworn to and signed in presence of

(Signed) GEO. STRATTON,
Magistrate.

Witnessed by

(Signed) J. HEPBURN,
J. WELSH.

Note.—This is all in Malabars. The Subadar, in every Deposition, seems to lay a great stress on his *Mosque*, when it is well known to have

DEPOSITION N^o V.

The Examination of SEO LOLL SING, Jemadar (a Native of Bengal), after being duly sworn.

Q.—Were you present when Sheik Hyder, Subadar, with some Havildars and Naigues, came a few days since, with a Facqueer, to the Major's home, to lodge a complaint?

A.—They did not come to complain, but to make their report. I was with them.

Q.—State who was then with Sheik Hyder, to the best of your recollection?

A.—Ten Companies of Côte Havildars, ten Companies of Orderly Naigues, the Havildar Major, the Drill Havildar, the Plummet Havildar, and Secunder Khan, Subadar.

Q.—Of the Havildars and Naigues you have mentioned, were they mostly Moormen or Hindoos?

A.—Except myself, Mootoo, Havildar, Colunda, Havildar, and Gonojee Row, Hindoos; all the rest were Moormen.

Q.—Was there a Facqueer then present, or not?

A.—There was.

been built by Lubbehs, and to belong to them. It is not to be supposed that a man talking of his master's destroying the Mosque, and turning a Facqueer outside, could be intended to affect all the Moormen of a Battalion, who had no share in that Mosque (that is to say, further than country allowed).

(Signed) J. WELSH.

18th December, 1806.

Q.—What conversation passed between that Fac-
queer and the Moormen?

A.—They conversed in Malabars, which I do not
understand.

Q.—Did you often observe any number of Moormen
together converse in Malabars?

A.—While on duty, they used to converse both in
Malabars and Moors.

*Pallancottah,
5th December, 1816.* }

The mark of **SEO LOLL SING**,
Jemadar.

Sworn to and signed in presence of

(Signed) **GEO. STRATTON**,
Magistrate.

Witnessed by

(Signed) **J. HEPBURN**,
J. WELSH.

Note.—The expressions of Sheik Hyder upon this occasion, seem to have
been so common, that no man of the party appears to have attended to them,
as I questioned all those above mentioned, and they said, “there were some
“ words passed, but not so extraordinary as to attract their attention.”

(Signed) **J. W.**

DEPOSITION N^o. VI.

RAMASAWMY, of *Kistnagherry (Paymaster's Writer)*,
being sworn, deposes :

Q.—Do you remember, while coming into the Fort
a few days ago with Smith, what passed?

A.—If you mention the subject, I will without con-
cealment say what passed.

Q.—Did you hear any mutinous expressions from a Sepoy?

A.—A Sepoy standing within the gate of the Fort, said, “The bad time for the white people is near at hand.”

Q.—When did you hear these expressions?

A.—I do not exactly remember the day.

Q.—Did you ever hear at other times such expressions from Sepoys?

A.—A month ago, while going out of the Fort, a Sepoy abused the Gentleman in bad language, while near the main guard, under a tree; he also said, “that the time for the Gentlemen to depart was near.”

Q.—Was the Sepoy a Mussulman or a Hindoo?

A.—A Mussulman.

Q.—Did you ever hear any more improper expressions from Sepoys?

A.—Since the day that the Sepoys killed the Gentlemen at Vellore, I have heard them abuse the English.

*Pellamcottah,
23rd November, 1806. }*

(Signed) RAMASAWMY.

Signed and sworn to in my presence,

**(Signed) GEO. STRATTON,
Magistrate.**

Witnessed by

**(Signed) J. HEPBURN,
J. WELSH.**

Note.—All this passed in Malabars also.

(Signed) J. WELSH.

DEPOSITION No. VII.

WILLIAM SMITH, *aged 35, being duly sworn, deposesh as follows:*

As I was returning from Mr. Wetherell's garden, and passing through the Fort gate, on the 18th or 19th instant (the day I do not exactly recollect), a Sepoy, then sentry, whom I took to be a Moorman, made use of the following expressions:

(Written in Malabar).

Or in English, "the day of disaster for the Europeans is arrived."

When the sentry used these expressions, Mr. Wetherell's Writer, Ramasawmy, was with me—in order to be sure of the words, I desired Ramasawmy to repeat them, which he did.

Q.—At what hour of the day did you pass into the Fort?

A.—About twelve o'clock.

Q.—Did you immediately communicate these expressions to any person?

A.—I told them to Mr. Sawyer.

(Signed) **W. SMITH.**

Sworn to before me this 23rd day of November, 1806,

(Signed) **GEO. STRATTON,**
Magistrate.

Witnessed by

(Signed) **J. HEPBURN,**
J. WELSH.

Note.—This passed entirely in Malabars.

(Signed) **J. WELSH.**

DEPOSITION N^o. VIII.

*The Examination on Oath of SAMUEL SAWYER, 23rd
November, 1806.*

Q.—Did Mr. Smith communicate any thing to you respecting the conspiracy amongst the Sepoys?

A.—Yes; he informed me that he had overheard a Sepoy at the main gate say (in Malabars), or in English, “the day of disaster for the Europeans is arrived.”

Q.—On what day did Mr. Smith mention the above circumstance to you?

A.—It was, to the best of my recollection, on the evening of the 18th instant.

Q.—What conversation passed in your presence, or hearing, between the Native Officers confined in the General Stores, and the Sepoys, Non-Commissioned Officers who were guarding them, on the evening of the 19th instant?

A.—I heard no conversation of any consequence that night respecting the conspiracy.

(Signed) S. SAWYER.

Sworn to in my presence,

(Signed) GEO. STRATTON,
Magistrate.

Witnessed by

(Signed) J. HEPBURN,
J. WELSH.

DEPOSITION N^o. IX.

ANUNDOM SILVER, Smith, of Pallamcottah, aged 27,
being duly sworn, deposes as follows :

I do not recollect the day, but on that day when the confusion happened in the Fort, I went to the Paymaster's house about some work ; on returning into the Fort about seven in the evening, two or three Mussulmen Sepoys, of those turned out of the Fort, said as follows, while standing under a tree : “ The
 “ Mussulmen Sirdars have not told us their evil intentions, from which circumstance they are secured,
 “ and are now in trouble ; had they told us before, we
 “ might have acted with the Sirdars.” This is what I heard.

The signature of **ANUNDOM.**

Pallamcottah,
29th November, 1806.

Note.—All this in Malabars.

(Signed) J. WELSH.

DEPOSITION N^o. X.

VELAGANAUTEN, of Kytar, aged 26, being sworn,
deposes as follows :

I went yesterday night to the house of Madar Sahib, the brother of Hyder Sahib. He said, “ Go to the
 “ Tappall Chouree, and give my salam to Somasundrum
 “ Moodelly ; tell him not to send to the Major any

“ Letter which may come from Madura, Trichinopoly,
 “ or Chingleput, to mine or my brother’s address; but
 “ to keep them, and when my man comes, to give them
 “ to him, or to send them to my house.” He told me
 to say this; I went this morning and told Somasundrum
 Moodelly accordingly. His brother-in-law, Vakeel
 Moodelly, was then with him; his name I know not.
 This is what I know.

(Signed) VELAGANAUTEN.

Sworn to and signed in my presence,

<i>Pallamcottah,</i> 20th November, 1806.	}	(Signed) GEO. STRATTON, Magistrate.
--	---	--

Witnessed by

(Signed) J. HEPBURN,
 J. WELSH.

Note.—This man, on being called to my house to be examined, watched
 a fair opportunity, and ran away as hard as he could. Captain Pepper and
 some Sepoys followed, and secured him. (Signed) J. WELSH.

Madura, December 17, 1806.

DEPOSITION N^o. XI.

The Deposition of SOMASUNDRUM, Tappall Writer.

Velagananten came this morning to my house, and
 said, “ If any Letters come for Hyder Sahib, Subadar,
 “ do not send them to the Major’s house; send them to
 “ the Subadar’s house, or keep them at the Tappall

“Chourcee.” At that time my brother-in-law, Appahsawmy, was present.

(Signed) SOMASUNDRUM.

While Velaganauten said what is stated above, I was present and heard it.

(Signed) APPAHSAWMY.

Sworn to and signed in presence of

Pallamcottah,
20th November, 1806. }

(Signed) GEO. STRATTON,
Magistrate.

Witnessed by

(Signed) J. HEPBURN,
J. WELSH.

DEPOSITION N^o. XII.

*The Examination of BOORAHUN KHAN, Subadar,
after being duly sworn.*

Q.—State what you said to the Major, the day you came from Command.

A.—The day I came from Command, the Major asked me whether I was prepared to take a fresh Oath of Allegiance. I answered, I am ready, except in two things—one, to wear a *hat*; the other, to quit my *caste*, and mix in your caste. Except these two things, I am prepared to sacrifice my life.

Q.—What made you suspect that the Gentlemen had any intention to make you wear a *hat*, or quit your caste?

A.—First, from the Gentlemen having sent *hats* for them to wear, who would agree to do so. Secondly, the Vellore story.

Q.—Did the two circumstances you mention alarm the Sirdars and Sepoys of the Battalion?

A.—They formerly had doubts.

The mark of BOORAHAN KHAN,
Subadar.

Pallamcottah,
27th November, 1806.

Note.—This Evidence comes from a man who had not been confined, excepting a few hours, when brought under a guard from Calcaud. His sword was immediately returned to him. He told me before Colonel Dyce (to whom I explained it), that he was fearful we would desire him to eat our food, which he could not consent to do. Mark the difference—Subadar Sheik Hyder and several others (from the same prison) assured us, “that they would embrace *our religion*, and wear *topies* and *crosses*.” Can any man doubt their guilt after that, who is acquainted with their religious prejudices? This Subadar informed me privately (for he would not own it in public), that the Vellore story was this—“The Europeans put *raw meat* “in the Sepoys’ mouths, shaved their whiskers, and made them wear *topies*.”

(Signed) J. WELSH.

Madura, December 17, 1806.

Note.—This Deposition serves to shew the cruel underhand dealings to which we owe the annihilation of the confidence and fidelity of a large part of our Native Army on the coast.

(Signed) J. WELSH.

Indus, 2nd September, 1807.

DEPOSITION NO. XIII.

The Deposition of MAHOMED ESHACK, Havildar Major.

On Sunday the 16th of November, having received the report of the ten Côte Havildars and the ten

Orderly Naigues, Sheik Hyder, Subadar, being then drest, came out of his house and asked me, "Major's homed Eshack, do you know what has appeared to-day?" "Sir, I do not know."—"The Major's Butler has abused Loll Shah, Facqueer, and made an attempt to strike him with a shoe, and said he would destroy the Mosque—what if he be the Major's Butler, has he such power? we will now all go together, and make our report to the Major." At that time, the day officer, Secunder Khan, Subadar, was present, as also Plummet Abdul Nubbee, Havildar, two or three Orderly Naigues, and two or three Côte Havildars. As we went from thence, and came toward the Major's house, Loll Shah, Facqueer, came and said, "the Butler has abused me, and beat me with a shoe, and said he would destroy the Mosque,"—on which Sheik Hyder turned toward me and said, "Is it not true what I told you?" on that I said, "It is not proper to go on the Facqueer's story." On that he said, "It is not only his, but the Tindal came and said the same." We all went from thence toward the Major's house; on coming near the Major's outer gate, he said to all, "I will ask and frighten the Butler—you are all to say, You have abused the Facqueer—the Moormen will be all one, and if they overpower you, what will you be able to do? You will all speak thus."—By that time the Drill Havildar having broke the drill, joined us. We then went to the Butler's pantry-door, and called the Butler, and asked

him all that was to be asked, and that in a little angry way. On that the Facqueer, standing in one side, called out aloud—the people there then told the Facqueer not to call out at the Sirdar's gate. From thence we went to the Major's door, and made our report to the Major. From thence we again came to the Butler's pantry. We again sent for the Butler, and said, "It is not proper for you to do so." He answered, "I have said—go where you will, to have my head cut off." In this hardy manner did he answer. Sheik Hyder, Subadar, hearing this, said, "The Major having seen the flag I have hoisted at the Mosque, is much alarmed, and all the Europeans are alarmed; all know, besides, that one Battalion has mutinied up the country; under these circumstances, as you have done a hardy thing, it will be hard for you—see and remember." On hearing these words, the Maistry Tailor became very humble, and said, "you were unwise to do so."—"I will fall to the Facqueer's feet, Sir," said he; which he did. After that, Sheik Hyder, Subadar, and Secunder Khan, Subadar, talked to each other, about the Butler being a Telinga, and having overpowered a Mussulman Facqueer, and came to the Barracks. Sheik Hyder, Subadar, then went home, and the rest of the Subadars went to their respective homes: the Havildar Major having given the parole to the Côte Havildars, went also to his home.

Q.—By what flag, and in what place hoisted, was it

that the Major and the rest of the Gentlemen were alarmed?

A.—I do not know what flag.

(Signed) MAHOMED ESHACK.

Sworn to and signed in presence of

Pallamcottah,
2nd December, 1806. }

(Signed) G. STRATTON,
Magistrate.

Witnessed by

(Signed) J. HEPBURN,

J. WELSH.

Note.—Although this Deposition has a specious appearance, I am firmly of opinion that it is contrived by all the prisoners, who were confined in one room (and who now began to be less vigilantly looked after), to deceive us, and induce their release, by throwing some appearance of blame on one man, Subadar Sheik Hyder (who was confined separately), to exculpate the rest, for no one of the Côte Havildars or Naigues present that evening, would corroborate it; and this led to the clear Evidence of a Bengal Jemadar (lately promoted), which proved that they were accustomed to talk in Malabars, which he does not understand. (Signed) J. WELSH.

Madura, December 17, 1806.

DEPOSITION N^o. XIV.

*The Examination of TYMAUN, Tindal, of Madura, on
being duly sworn.*

Q.—Do you know the writer of this Letter?

A.—Read it, and I shall be able to say.

Q.—Do you know whether any Facqueers have been here for the purposes of sedition?

A.—I know one Facqueer—there was a dispute

between him and the Butler Iyen Permaul's wife: on the Butler coming home, she told him, "the Facqueer has abused me." The Butler, on hearing this story, asked the Facqueer why he had abused his wife, and gave him a blow. The Facqueer on this went to his house, and came back with a stick, and said, "You have struck me; shall I now strike you, as you have struck me? I will contrive, so that in four days you will not be able to stir a limb; I will even have them cut off." Having said this, the Butler returned for answer, "I will get the Mosque pulled down, and you turned out of the Fort"—at the same time *the Butler told me and a palankin boy to go and tell the same to the Subadar*. I went to Hyder Sahib, Subadar, and mentioned it to him. He said, "Whatever the Facqueer may have said, ought one to beat him? He ought not to have been struck, whatever abuse he might have given."

Q.—Mention the name of the Facqueer?

A.—I know not.

Q.—Is he a Facqueer of this country, or not?

A.—I have seen him here for the last nine months.

Q.—When did the Facqueer say he would kill the Butler in four days?

A.—Five or six days ago.

Q.—Since the Facqueer is not of your caste, how come you to know him these nine months?

A.—He lived at the Mosque, and used to take wood from passengers; by that means I came to know him.

Q

Q.—When the Facqueer alarmed the Butler about his intention to kill him, what Mussulman Sirdars of the Battalion were present?

A.—At that time none were near.

Q.—What conversation passed between the Butler and Sheik Hyder, about the English and Mussulmen flags?

A.—The Butler having said that he would destroy the Mosque, and pull down the flag, Sheik Hyder said, “This has not been done by the Gentlemen—
“can you effect it?”

Pallaneettah,
22nd November, 1806. }

The mark of TYMAUN,
Tindal.

Sworn to and signed in presence of

(Signed) GEO. STRATTON,
Magistrate.

Witnessed by

(Signed) J. HEFURN,
J. WELSH.

Note.—This man has endeavoured to throw every thing on the Butler's quarrel; and, unfortunately, the extraordinary Letter which we called him to hear read, was not for him, but another Tindal, which gave him fresh confidence, finding we were under a mistake (this Letter is translated in page 155). It will appear evident, if he was present when Subadar Sheik Hyder and the Butler conversed, that he has concealed the greater part of the truth there, and added a circumstance of this man's having threatened to pull down the flag, which is not corroborated by any other Evidence. This Mosque belongs to Lubbehs, and not to Sheik Hyder, or the Corps.

(Signed) J. WELSH.

December 1806.

DEPOSITION N^o. XV.

SEVEREE, of Madura, being duly sworn, deposes as follows:

Six days ago, while the Facqueer and the Butler were quarrelling, the Facqueer said as follows, while standing near the godown: "The Butler has struck me without any cause; if it is inquired into, it is well; if not, I will split my skull, and spill my blood at the Major's door." On that, the persons then standing there, asked the Butler, "Why did you beat the Facqueer? he says he will split his skull." On which the Butler said, "He went when my wife was alone, and abused her, for which reason I beat him. He said he would conjure me so, as to prevent my moving a limb. If you kill me, be true, I will (said the Butler) destroy the Mosque." While talking thus, the Subadars and Jemadars came to make their report. The great Mussulman Subadar then said to the Butler, "Allowing even that you beat the Facqueer, what of that? You said you would destroy our Mosque: you are a Hindoo; have you no fear? The Gentlemen are all frightened at the flag hoisted; are you not afraid?" Saying this, he went away. This is what I know.

Q.—Did the Subadar speak those words in an angry, or jocular manner?

A.—In an angry manner.

Q 2

Q.—Do you know any thing of the mutiny in this Fort, or have you heard any thing about it?

A.—I neither know it, nor have I heard of it.

Q.—Did you tell the Major's Lady any thing about a ghost?

A.—A Commandant was formerly blown away from a gun—I told her that his ghost was moving about, calling for bread and water.

Q.—When the Subadar spoke in the angry manner you mention, who was present?

A.—The Maistry Tailor Kanakarsoo; the Cook Per-ryana, and the other servants belonging to my master.

*Pallamcottah,
23rd November, 1806.* }

The mark of SEVEREE.

Sworn to and signed in presence of

(Signed) **GEO. STRATTON,**
Magistrate.

Witnessed by

(Signed) **J. HEPBURN,**
J. WELSH.

Note.—All this passed in Malabars. She is a Malabar woman, and Mrs. Welsh's ayah.

(Signed) **J. WELSH.**

DEPOSITION N^o. XVI.

The Examination of ERYANA DAsAKUN, of Pallamcottah, aged 38, on being duly sworn.

Q.—Did you hear of the quarrel at the Major's, between the Butler and Facqueer?

A.—I know nothing of the first quarrel—I know what passed at the Major's.

Q.—State what passed at the Major's.

A.—The Facqueer said, “The Butler has struck me; I shall contrive that he shall not move a limb.”—The Butler then said to him, “I will destroy your “Mosque.” The Facqueer having told this to Sheik Hyder, Subadar, Secunder Khan, Subadar, the Major Havildar, the Drill Havildar, and to ten or twelve other Mussulmen Havildars, and having assembled them in a mob, came with them. I went from my master's to the godown; there the mob was assembled. On my asking Hyder Sahib, Subadar, What mob is this? he said, “A shepherd caste woman brought some “bratties for sale; while she was at the Butler's, the “Facqueer went to take some bratties; on the Facqueer's saying something to the Butler's wife, he “struck him; the Facqueer then threatened to render “him motionless; on which the Butler said he would “destroy the Mosque; for which reason all the Moor- “men are come to complain to your master.” I then said, “The Butler has done this without sense; have

"patience." I then touched the Facqueer's foot, and salamed to him, and said, "Do not tell my master." The Mussulmen altogether then said, "The Butler has said, that on account of the Facqueer he would destroy the Mosque; the Mosque is not his only, but ours also: the Gentlemen were all alarmed at the flag formerly hoisted at the Mosque. He has said he will destroy the Mosque; for which reason we are come to complain—from your desiring us to be patient, we will." On that they went away. This is what passed.

Q.—In what language did all this pass?

A.—In Malabars.

Pallamcottah,
28th November, 1806. }

The signature of

ERYANA DAsAKUN.

Sworn to and signed in presence of

(Signed) **GEO. STRATTON,**
Magistrate.

Witnessed by

(Signed) **J. HEPBURN,**
J. WELSH.

Note.—This man is a tailor, whom I have long employed. He is a very good man, and much attached to me; but a mere simpleton.

(Signed) **J. WELSH.**

DEPOSITION NO. XVII.

**ALLAGHERRY, Sepoy, of Pallamcottah, aged 20, being
duly sworn, deposes as follows :**

This morning, about nine o'clock, while on Colonel's guard, some Moormen Sepoys, who had been turned out of the Fort, passed in their way to Tinnevely; their names I know not: while passing, they said as follows: "The Moormen have (literally) spoilt themselves."

Q.—What number of Mussulmen Sepoys were then in your guard?

A.—They were all Hindoo Sepoys.

Q.—Can you point out the people who conversed together to the tenor you have stated?

A.—They were in a crowd; I overheard them, but cannot point them out.

*Pallamcottah,
21st November, 1806.* }

The mark of ALLAGHERRY.

Sworn to and signed in presence of

(Signed) **GEO. STRATTON,**
Magistrate.

Witnessed by

(Signed) **J. HEPBURN,**
J. WELSH.

Note.—The rest of the guard came to the same purpose, but I thought it too trivial to be noted down.

(Signed) **J. WELSH.**

DEPOSITION N^o. XVIII.

SOUBAH NAICK, *Havildar, of Madura, aged 35, being duly sworn, deposes as follows:*

Yesterday evening, about eight o'clock, the Moormen then out of the Fort conversed among themselves to the following purport: "The Moormen have (literally) "spoilt themselves: What fault attaches to "one?" They said the above as they went along; I was then on the Colonel's guard.

Pallamcottah, } (Signed) SOUBAH NAICK.
21st November, 1806.

Sworn to and signed in presence of

(Signed) GEO. STRATTON,
Magistrate.

Witnessed by

(Signed) J. HEPBURN,
J. WELSH.

Note.—This man came into the Fort on purpose to inform me of what he had heard.

(Signed) J. WELSH.

Madura, December 17, 1806.

DEPOSITION N^o. XIX.

The Examination of AYETWAR SING, after being duly sworn.

Q.—Before you left this place, what did you say to the Major on going to see him?

A.—When I was about to proceed to Shevelpatoor,

I came to the Major's house to make my salams, and said, "I am going to Shevelpatoor on command." I then said, "Sir, the Battalion has been in a state of "mutiny; be on your guard. If I stay, I should die "near you—if the Gentlemen introduce the turban "again in this Battalion, or any way do any oppres- "sive act, they will kill all the Gentlemen."

Q.—State what you know of any mutiny in the Battalion.

A.—When the turban came, all the Sepoys and Sirdars consulted together, that if they wore that turban, they would all be turned into soldiers, and would be obliged to eat their victuals: on this, they consulted about killing all the Gentlemen, if that turban were again brought forward. Being a Sepoy, and having ate your salt, I mentioned it to the Sirdar.

Q.—You have stated that a consultation had taken place, not to wear that turban—when did it take place?

A.—When the turban arrived; it was then the consultation took place.

Q.—Did any further consultation take place afterward?

A.—A consultation again took place, when it was determined, that if the turban were again introduced, that they would sacrifice their own lives, and kill all the Gentlemen.

Q.—Why did you not at the time state to the Major that consultation had taken place?

A.—The turban having been laid aside, and all silent, I therefore then said nothing.

Q.—Why did you afterward mention it to him ?

A.—On going away, and seeing him, I felt sorrowful, and without knowing if any mutiny would take place, I said that I would die near him.

Q.—Before you left this, did you hear of any ghost going about the rampart ?

A.—People said that the ghost of a Commandant was going about the rampart, and an evil spirit over the flag-staff.

*Pallamcottah,
5th December, 1806.* }

The mark of **AYETWAR SING,**
Sepoy.

Sworn to and signed in presence of

(Signed) **GEO. STRATTON,**
Magistrate.

Witnessed by

(Signed) **J. HEPBURN,**
J. WELSH.

Note.—To this Evidence I have only to add, that as we naturally concluded he was fully acquainted with every thing, from the earnest manner in which he warned me, ere his departure, I sent an Express on purpose to call him from his Command to give Evidence. He arrived on the 5th December, and was very unwell at the time; a Mussulman also being the interpreter, he seemed cautious, and did not mention the names of individuals, as he afterwards did, when gentlemen were the interpreters at Madras.

(Signed) **J. WELSH.**

Madras, April 1807.

This man was strongly recommended to the Commander-in-Chief by the General Court-Martial, for his fidelity and zeal; but not being taken any notice of, I pensioned him during my absence from the Coast.

(Signed) **J. W.**

Copy of a Letter to Mr. Smith, Paymaster's Writer.

From Pallameottah, at Trichinopoly.

MR. SMITH,

REVERTING to former occurrences at Pallamcottah, I recollect some intelligence that you gave me, regarding the treatment our Sepoys gave those persons who brought in mutineers, and some other circumstances, indicating a discontent among the men, particularly one, where some Sepoys were overheard discussing the subject of *following the example set at Vellore*. I will be obliged to you, to go before a Magistrate and take oath, as to your knowledge of every transaction of the kind, as I now find they were connected with subsequent ones. I do this, to save you the trouble of a trip to Madras, which might put you to much expence and inconvenience.

(Signed)

J. WELSH,
Major, late Commanding
Pallamcottah.

If you will show this Letter to the Magistrate, he will put you in a proper way of forwarding the Deposition to me at Madras, without delay.

Madras, 22nd January, 1807.

Note.—This man had a brother murdered at Vellore, on the 10th July, 1806.

I thought that Depositions would be admitted in my Defence at this time ; but on the Judge-Advocate General informing me that he could not allow me to produce them, I had Mr. Smith summoned, among others, but he refused to attend.

DEPOSITION N^o. XX.

The Deposition of WILLIAM SMITH, Son of JOHN SMITH, of the Protestant Religion, Writer to the Paymaster's Department of Trichinopoly, 31 Years of Age; taken before the Acting Magistrate of the Zillah of Trichinopoly, on the 8th February, 1807.

It was some time in August last, or soon after the disturbances at Vellore, that there were a number of deserters from that place apprehended in the districts of Tinnevely, and brought in to the Garrison of Palamcottah, and taken to the Commanding Officer's quarters, under charge of some Polygar Peons, with pikes in their hands. As I happened to go into the Fort, I overtook the crowd which followed the prisoners, when I heard several words, uttered by some person or persons amongst them (the exact expression of which I cannot at this distance of time call to my recollection), but it was to the following purport: "That the Polygars had been too officious respecting the apprehending their countrymen, and bringing them to be punished; for what they did at Vellore, was to defend their caste and religion, which they had much regard for." There was such a confusion at that time, and being nearer to the Bazar than to the gate, I could not trace the person who spoke to this effect. I recollect all descriptions of people in this mob, and likewise some Sepoys in it. The time of the day was then between three or four in the afternoon. This circumstance I mentioned to the Rev.

Mr. Ringletaube, who acquainted the Commanding Officer, Major (then Captain) Welsh, and I was sent for by the latter Gentleman a few days afterwards, when I told him all then I knew, which I cannot now remember, excepting that which I have just mentioned.

(Signed) WILLIAM SMITH,
Junior.

Taken before me this 8th day of February, 1807,

(Signed) CHARLES WOODCOCK,
Acting Magistrate.

Note.—This Mr. Smith told me, that the Sepoys of the gate guard abused the Polygars, and got round them in a tumultuous manner. He also told me, that one of his conicopulies overheard some Sepoys talking in a hut in the Fort, when one of them said, “Why cannot we follow the example of “our brothers at Vellore?” He said that there was much apparent disgust among the Troops, but that my declaration on the 5th August had made them more moderate in their expressions. His information had induced Mr. Cochrane (Collector) and me to determine, that all mutineers apprehended in future, should remain in his custody outside, until the moment of sending them off. These half-caste people are the likeliest to know what is going on, as they generally understand the country languages, and the Natives are not afraid to speak before them. (Signed) J. WELSH.

DEPOSITION N^o. XXI.

The Deposition of a Moorman of the 1st Battalion 3rd Regiment, after Major Welsh's Trial was over, sent with the Deponent to the Adjutant-General of the Army.

Sheik Moheedeen*, Orderly Naigue 1st Company 1st Battalion 3rd Regiment, states, that in the month

* This young man, who is brother to a Jemadar of the Corps, was one of those called to Madras to give Evidence in my favour, but not examined in my Defence, in consequence of the Mussulman preponderance at the time.

of Mohurrun, in camp at Ahmednugger, in the year 1805 (answering to April in English), after the two Mahratta campaigns, a *Nusseehut Namah* was brought to the Corps, and read by Subadar Sheik Hyder, and other learned men, to the Battalion, said to have come from *Mecca*, and to be *directed to Subadar Sheik Hyder**, the purport of which was, to call all the Moormen to a sense of their religious duties; that they were ambitious, and did not attend to morality, &c.; that 6 or 700,000 men had lately perished, and all gone to hell; that the doors of repentance were still open, but would soon be finally closed against all those who did not follow the tenets of their faith. He says the whole of the Mussulmen, and some of the Hindoos, were acquainted with it. It was reported that similar *Nusseehut Namahs* had been sent to every country.

When the Battalion arrived at Seringapatam, under Major Welsh, in February 1806, Subadar Sheik Hyder used to meet Subadar Mullick Sahib, of the Light Company 2nd Battalion 1st Regiment (alias Allawuddeen); they were very intimate friends, and feasted together. He mentions this, from having been told by Mahomed Gollop, Naigue of that Corps, that the Subadar Allawuddeen is a prisoner, for similar practices.

* This appears to have been a masterly stroke in Sheik Hyder, to establish his own supremacy over all the Mussulmen of the Corps, which was paving the way to his future projects of ambitious treason.

(Signed) J. WELSH.

When at Pallamcottah, Sheik Hyder hoisted a green flag on a tall staff at the Mosque, and the attendants called out, "Deen Jaggah, Cauffer Bhaggah's!" He did not see it taken down, as it was done secretly. Sheik Hyder became, as it were, a great Nabob; that he had several people in his pay, who proclaimed his titles and praises as he moved about the streets; even when he came to report to Major Welsh, these people remained at the corner of the garden wall, and as soon as he returned, they gave information in the same style; and that even the Native Officers were afraid of him; that when Sheik Hyder took the new muster turban to his house, his *uncle** was with him, and called out, in presence of several Sepoys, &c. "You put on this turban to-day, and to-morrow you will sit down and eat with them."

It was customary for Abdul Nubby, Sheik Nutter,

* Subadar Sheik Hyder's uncle was a pensioned Subadar (put on the Non-Effective List for being concerned in a mutiny in the 7th Battalion at Manar in 1796); he was stationed at Chingleput, near Wallajahbad, and paid his nephew a visit in July. He went away from Pallamcottah in August, after having done all he could to inflame the minds of the Sepoys there, and he most likely carried with him an invitation to Allawuddeen at Wallajahbad (the ringleader of an intended mutiny in the 2nd Battalion 1st Regiment Native Infantry), to commence their massacre about the same time with their friends at Pallamcottah. This Allawuddeen was *betrayed* through the *fidelity* of one man, who preferring his duty to the *false doctrines* of his religion, gave information to Captain Hughes of that Corps, and secured the Evidence of several Hindoos, &c. by which the plot was defeated, and Allawuddeen confined in prison at Madras. This faithful Mussulman (whose name is Mahomed Gollop) has since been promoted and rewarded by Government, as also Captain Hughes's Moonshy (another honorable Mussulman), who gave information of another plot.

(Signed) J. WELSH.

Curreem Sahib, Soubah Naigue, all Native Officers, to assemble at Sheik Hyder's house and play at cards. There were two Facqueers lived in his house, who always called out "Deen, Deen," when he appeared. There were at the time of the flag, constant reports in circulation, that Europeans were coming, and that the men were to have their whiskers taken off, &c. &c.

Sheik Hyder used the Sepoys to work for him like Coolies; the Major's Tindal was like his slave, and when he hoisted the green flag, he (the Tindal) climbed up and called, "Yallee, Yallee!"

Q.—How long had you formerly resided at Pallamcottah?

A.—Five or six years.

Q.—Had Sheik Hyder ever hoisted a green flag on former days at the Mosque, in the Fort of Pallamcottah?

A.—Never: he put up a small orange flag in former days, at a little Muckaun of a Facqueer, in another part of the Fort; but that is a proper and customary flag*.

Q.—We do not wish you to criminate yourself, but to establish facts, and prove the guilt of your superior.

A.—What more can you wish to establish? is not the act of hoisting this flag, in itself, a proof of his crime, in establishing his own authority over his masters, and making himself a Hakim†?

Q.—Did not Sheik Hyder assemble large parties at

* Vide Evidence of Gunnojee Row in my Defence, page 109.

† Judge or Ruler.

his house, not only of Native Officers, but of great Mussulmen at Tinnevely?

A.—Yes, constantly.

Q.—Did you see any puppet-shows at the Barracks; and what did they represent?

A.—There were representations of Europeans and Native Troops, also Mogul Troops, fighting up and down, and Officers on horseback with drawn swords*; and we were taxed by the Native Officers to pay them. The Hindoos exclaimed against it, as likely to prevent a good fall of rain.

Q.—Which party appeared to conquer?

A.—It was impossible to tell.

(A True Statement).

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

R. T. HUGHES,
Captain.

N. B.—This information was given us, and repeated in presence of Ramah, Sepoy, and Eitwaur Syng, Sepoy, who both corroborated every part of it.

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

R. T. HUGHES,
Captain.

Madras, 4th August, 1807.

† Vide Colonel Dyce's Letter, No. IX. page 169.

N^o. XXIII.

An exact Copy of the Rev. Mr. Ringletaube's Letter.

"To Major J. Welsh, Esq. Madras."

*Pallamcottah,
21st January, 1807.*

MY VERY DEAR SIR,

I AM happy you are arrived safe and well, with your Lady and little Eliza, at a place where I trust justice will be done to you. I did not come home till last night, and that is the reason why I did not answer your Letter sooner. You ask a solemn declaration, on certain points that have come to my knowledge during the conspiracy. I will write all I know, to the best of my recollection; and as my recollection of this affair is pretty strong, I think I shall not commit any material fault. Perhaps I may make an error as to dates, as I kept no diary during the alarm; but they will not be such as to disguise facts.

A day or two previous to the 16th November, 1806, you took me out a ride, and communicated to me, that Colonel Dyce had ordered you from Tutucoryn to your post, and that you ought to be on your guard against a plot in the Battalion, *by no means trusting to appearances of loyalty, &c. &c.*; you seemed at a loss how to act upon an emergency, but thought it would be most proper, if there were marks of mutiny, to draw up the Battalion and address them, at the

risk of your life, in order to give time to the other Europeans to escape. You added, when I advised you to fly too, you would be happy to die, doing your duty; but, after all, you thought your Corps incapable of treachery against you and the other Gentlemen, from whom they had never experienced any thing but kindness. On the 15th, Saturday, my good friend Padri Emmanuel de Cadutosy sent his Catechist with a salam, and inquiry when *I intended to go into the country*—I asked *where* he wished me to go, thinking he desired me to settle some differences between his and our Christians. The man replied, the Padri had mentioned no particular place, he only wanted to know *when* I would go into the country—in the course of the month, I answered, and observed the man looking significantly and disappointed at me. I sent word I should be glad to see the Padri; but he never came, though he stayed three days longer.

In the evening of *that day*, at eight o'clock, my people, going to prayer, observed blood sprinkled at the church door; my boy tasted it, and said it tasted and smelt like that of a fowl; but they did not tell me then.

Next morning, the 16th, being the Lord's Day, at 5½ A. M., I walked in my verandah, meditating my sermon. My boy told me repeatedly of blood at the church, and at last prevailed on me to come and look at it—I found two handfuls sprinkled on the foot of each post of the middle entrance—they showed me

a bloody track, leading from thence over a tomb-stone, to the tomb of *Mr. Hay**, late Lieutenant, where it went all round, and then ceased; nor could it be traced in any other direction. I was struck more and more, the longer I looked: neither a bleeding nose, nor a wounded animal, could have been the cause. I concluded it was a sacrifice. Whilst my people washed it off, as I ordered them, I stood musing, and an old Moorish woman passing by (the widow of the late Doctor to your Battalion, I think), asked me, with a curious look, what it was that drew my attention? "Nothing," I replied. The woman, to whom I had shown some kindness, walked off, shaking her head; but it did not then strike me as worth bestowing a thought upon it.

After service, I showed the track to Mr. Douglas, Lieutenant Dumas, and Captain Pepper. I think they said, it was very *strange*; and Mr. Dumas added, during the rebellion in Ireland, blood had often been found sprinkled in such places, where the rebels meant to commit a massacre, and this always had happened four days previous to the outrages committed. Then, for the first time, a thought came into my mind, that perhaps the Padri wanted to warn me and the Gentlemen; but I do not think I mentioned it. In the course of the day, several Officers called, I think Captain Wilson among them, and expressed

* Hill.

increasing alarms. I do not recollect whether Captain Wilson called on Sunday or Monday, but he too considered the blood at the church a *warning*. On Monday, early *I think*, you called, and told me the story of the ghost, and the reluctance an old faithful Subadar had expressed to leave you—you desired me to let you know if I discovered any thing. On Tuesday your apprehensions grew stronger, and I communicated to you my idea, that perhaps the Padri was the author of the blood—you took no notice; but soon wrote me a Chit, desiring me to send the Padri to you. I sent for him, *but he had left the Fort about five o'clock*. I mentioned to you, that the praying and groaning had been uncommonly strong at the Romish church, which is the case when these Christians intercede for a design of importance to be carried into execution, the nature of which they often do not know. I thought the Padri had heard something at confession, from one of the seventy Romish soldiers in the Battalion, and prayed for the aversion of the evil; and this I mentioned to you.

On the 19th, Wednesday, at two o'clock in the afternoon, Mr. Sawyer rushed into my bungalow, pale as a corpse, telling me of the alarm that had broke out. I ran to the parade, and found you and Mr. Dumas armed with musket, and forming about 200 Sepoys opposite to your house—you called out, "Let us thank God, Sir, we have escaped immediately death from the treacherous Moormen;" and desired

me to stay at your house with Mrs. Welsh. "We will "all keep together," you said. When I saw Mrs. Welsh she was greatly agitated, took me into the billiard-room, and told me, that by her desire the Butler had dodged the Subadars to the Mosque, where he overheard five of them planning a conspiracy—the Hindoos being cowards, should not know it—in the evening the Subadars should assemble at Sheik Hyder's for a supper, where the plan should be digested—within ten days we were to be murdered, or immediately, if any thing should transpire. You know, Sir, in our dispersed state, this would have been very practicable; and in general, if the plot had spread in the least, we must have been undone, as Sheik Hyder had contrived to send all the Hindoo Subadars away, and get his relations into the Corps*.

After this, Captain Pepper desired me to assist in guarding the Subadars—they were all sitting on chairs, with their side-arms, in your closet; many seemed to be greatly apprehensive; only one of them (Captain Pepper, I think, said it was the Havildar Major) stalked proudly up and down, and seemed to meditate with great uneasiness—they talked Hindoostanny to each other. I told Captain Pepper it was improper they should be left together, talking and armed; but

* This remark is a very just one, for we took upwards of 100 Moormen into the Corps, recommended by Sheik Hyder and others, as their connexions, in the room of Hindoos, &c. turned out in July and August.

(Signed) J. W.

he said, "Never mind, we can hear every word." Soon after, however, he sent me to you, to inquire whether they should be disarmed. You replied, Not yet; you had too few men collected to venture on additional steps. Meanwhile, all the Moormen were turned out. I understood they remained all day, threatening, before the main gate. You took several measures for our security, and then came and disarmed the Subadars; the Havildar Major parted last, and seemingly with hesitation, with his sword. I then went into the hall, and sat down with Mr. Hepburn, Dr. M'Cabe, Mrs. Welsh, &c. talking on the late events. I said, I was afraid sufficient Evidence would not be collected, as the prisoners were not separated. You came in and said, "Depend on it, there will be plenty "Evidence—I know *who will turn King's Evidence.*" The same evening, or the evening following, I cannot recollect which, Mr. Gore told me, on condition of secrecy, that an old Subadar had said to you in his hearing, "What is it, if Sheik Hyder at the Mosque "said to me, let us kill all the Europeans." He added, that this man would turn *King's Evidence.*

What passed in the night, I cannot tell, as I slept very soundly till sunrise, for which I was found fault with by all the Gentlemen; but my mind was worn out with fatigue of thinking.

On the day following I heard Sheik Hyder had given order to the post-office, to send the letter-bag to *his* house, before he sent it to you. This Writer was said

to have desired you, that you would open the Letters, if any, that came from Madras and other places frequently to Sheik Hyder—you told me several suspicious Letters had been discovered, especially one in inverted characters, from Ramalingum to his brother. Reports prevailing, that the Moormen turned out would fall upon us in the night, you took several necessary precautions.

The *Tindal* was examined, and then put into a little room adjoining the billiard-table, where you put one sentry over him, whilst you and Mr. Stratton proceeded to examine an old Subadar. The *Tindal*, hearing the man's negative answers, smiled triumphantly at every one of them. I asked whether he was to hear what the other said. Mr. Stratton answered, it was of no consequence. He then told me the old man had revoked all he had said the day before in your hearing.

On the 21st (Friday) Colonel Dyce arrived in the morning. He approved, I understood, of all you had done. He swore the Hindoo Sepoys anew: they gave three cheers. In the evening, some of the prisoners threatening Captain Pepper, and proving very unruly, Colonel Dyce gave orders to confine them all in irons, and very properly; for without irons, they were far from being well secured in a mud-wall building, softened by them about the slight window with water. Had they broke out, which was possible, they would have been in possession of our arms and strong-hold.

Many of us must have bled before they could have been reduced, and we might still have been overcome. You always thought, and do think, different from me on this point. I will only add, that Sheik Nutter and another Subadar were put apart in godown at your house: here Sheik Nutter harangued the guard *in Malabars*, desiring them to come to his assistance. I happened to be there, and when I thought the affair might become dangerous, ran to tell Colonel Dyce. He came and spoke to him, but the fellow continued very noisy, not minding the Colonel at all. I then went away, and after an hour or two found him quiet. Some Gentlemen said he was a jolly fellow, and had got drunk; but he certainly had the full use of his tongue, and I have no doubt, had the guard (drawn up in the Court) listened to his persuasions, he would have had the full use of his hands and feet also.

On the 22nd, being more at ease, Colonel Dyce, you, Mr. Stratton and Hepburn, set about a serious inquiry for Evidence. I was sent for at tiffin-time, and you communicated to me the anonymous Letter. This shall be the conclusion of my narrative. When we had decyphered a little its mysterious character, I thought it was written by a heathen, who had assumed the garb of a Christian. Its date and direction displayed an inconsistency, on account of which we despised it: it must have been written after Colonel Dyce came from Courtallum—the contents were as follows: “In travelling to —x— Pattuam, I over-

" heard a conversation between three Facqueers in
 " Nawab's Choultry, to this effect—a conspiracy was
 " set a-going among the Moormen—Sheik Hyder at
 " the head, Ramalingum and Madhoo Row joining—
 " Ramalingum had harboured one of the emissaries in
 " his house—the Europeans to be murdered—a camp
 " to be formed—Ramalingum and Mukoo Row to
 " have the supplying of it—the King of Travancore
 " and the Polygars would join them." It struck me
 immediately, that Ramalingum, just at that critical
 time, kicked up a rout with the King of Travancore,
 pretending Colonel Macaulay's authority for doing so.
 The King was said to have come in person to com-
 plain to the Colonel, and when Ramalingum was
 delivered up to him, put him in fetters, and a few
 days after made up matters with him graciously. How
 much truth in this report is, I cannot tell; if it is true,
 it renders him suspicious—but back to the anonymous
 scrawl: it was signed with such a cross †. When
 I had left you, and reached my bungalow, I saw a
 little white flag, with exactly such a cross, flying
 before the Romish church; I had never seen it before;
 it seemed to say to me, the writer of that Letter is to
 be inquired of where this flag flies. I returned to give
 you notice; the Gentlemen desired me to make further
 inquiries; I went to Mrs. Copeland, she told me this
 was an extraordinary thing; I departed; but she called
 me in a second time, and said, " This particular cross
 " was always hoisted on All Souls Day, to put Chris-

“ tians in mind of praying for the poor souls in purgatory.”

Accordingly it continued flying before the Romish church till we went away. All further inquiries concerning the writer of that Letter were in vain—only so much I could ascertain, that if a Christian wrote it, it was not written in the Fort.

As I wish to hurry off this Letter with to-day's post, I must break off. Dear Sir, you have certainly acted as well as circumstances would permit. Your superior in Command has approved; and even exceeded what you did. When your case shall be impartially considered, justice will be done to you. The Inquiry made at this place, was neither fair nor full: men prejudiced were the inquirers; you and your Witnesses were previously marched away—What can be the result? Such as it is! At your Defence, please to recollect,

1. That you were under orders to look out for a conspiracy.

2. That several presumptive proofs occurred.

3. That there was, and is, a full, clear, and consistent Evidence—that of the Butler. To object this, because the Butler pretends to have heard the conversation in the Mosque in *Malabars*, is nugatory. You know, as well as every body else, that the Moormen Subadars in general talk *Malabars* with great fluency.

4. That the Subadars had two great advantages

given them : by not being separated at first, and by afterwards being favored in the Inquiry by the prejudices of the Officers of the 4th, and their not being sufficiently acquainted with the Hindoostance ; at least such is the report, for I know none of them personally, except Lieutenant Robertson. If, with an able friend, you go over the Minutes of the Inquiry, you will find much to object. For instance, Sheik Hyder and Havildar Major are accused, that when they had positive orders to go to the Judge's, they did not, and thereby betray their guilty consciences.

A.—We *went*, but when we *came near* the Judge's house, we heard the alarm beat, and *run back* to the Fort.

Q.—As you were so *near*, why did not you quickly run there, and *then* come back ? Is an Officer that has positive orders to go and execute a commission at a certain place, to run back when he hears the alarm beat, without doing his commission ?

If you had run back, the Officer of the *main gate* would have been and apprehended you there?—Has the Officer seen them coming back?—Did not Mr. Dumas see them in the Fort, and skulk away from his sight?—When did this happen ?

Such, and other questions concerning place and time, and the confronting of Witnesses, would show the futility of their answers; but, alas! the Committee of Inquiry declares, that on this point the prisoners *cleared themselves entirely*.

Be of good courage, my dear Sir; the God whom you serve, will deliver you: truth will at last be brought to light by him. I declare before his presence, instead of a solemn oath, that the above statement of circumstances that have come within my observation, is as correct as I can give it from my best recollection, and I wish this declaration might be of use to you. Had you made more than a half-confidant of me during the alarm, perhaps I might bring more important things to your recollection.

Make use of what I have written as you please. Give my best compliments to your Lady, and the Officers of the 3rd now with you; and believe me to be, with more regard than ever,

Dear Sir,

Your humble obedient Servant,

(Signed) WILL^M. TOBIAS RINGLETAUBE.

Copy of a Written Deposition sent by Mr. Stratton to Major Welsh.

Q. by Major Welsh—When I waited on you on the 18th of November, what conversation took place between us and Mr. Hepburn?

A. by Mr. Stratton—When you waited on me on the morning of the 18th, you mentioned to me that blood had been spilt at the church-door the night before, and carried from thence round the grave of an Officer who

had recently died ; that a ghost had been seen walking the ramparts, who, on being challenged, called out, Feringhee, and disappeared ; that it was believed in the Fort to be the ghost of a Subadar who had formerly been shot at Pallamcottah for mutiny. You also mentioned, that a Sepoy, named Ayetwar Sing, had called on you to take leave previous to his going to Sunkernacovil ; that you observed an unusual earnest manner about him ; that he told you he considered you as his father ; that he would sacrifice his life for you ; that there was no faith or honor in a black man ; that if the Corps could so far forget their duty as to endanger your life, that he would die in your defence. You further mentioned, that you feared, from the above circumstances, that some incendiaries were tampering with the Troops ; that you knew of a Facqueer in the Fort, who went by the name of the Vellore Facqueer, whom you had reason to suspect. I put a Letter of Government, in confidence, into your hands, directing me to keep an eye on such religious mendicants, who it was known were spread about the country for the purposes of sedition—you promised to point out the person above alluded to, for me to secure. We then consulted on what was best to be done about the blood spilt near the church, and the ghost : we agreed not to take notice of the former circumstance, but to use every endeavour to secure the incendiary who had put on the semblance of a ghost. The above-mentioned circumstances are, to the best of my recol-

lection, the principal subjects of conversation which passed between us on the morning of the 18th November, at my house.

Q.—Did you not shew me a circular Letter from Government, about the apprehending Facqueers, &c. and what were the contents of it?

A.—This question is answered to the first question.

Q.—Did you not approve of all my public measures from the 19th till the 21st, when Colonel Dyce arrived?

A.—My advice to you on the morning of the 19th, was to parade the Corps, and seize the ringleaders of the mutiny; when *I afterwards learnt from you, on going into the Fort, that an attempt had been made on your life, by a Sepoy levelling his musket at you**, and

* Mr. Stratton had forgot, that it was Lieutenant Gore who informed us both of the Sepoy being knocked down for snapping a loaded piece—I never asserted that it was particularly aimed at my person, but by all accounts (and it was generally known at the time) it was pointed at four of us, then with our backs to the man; and there was such a scene of confusion at the time, that no further notice was taken of it, nor did I afterwards attempt to apprehend the culprit. Let me add, that I was happy to secure the arms without bloodshed, for I still felt a regard for the Corps (which those who know me, can alone appreciate); and I always considered the Sepoys as misled by their superiors—a proof in point, is the release of my Orderly, accused of mutinous expressions at that very moment. And here let me affirm, that I wanted no excuse for securing the Native Officers, or disarming the Mussulmen; and I appeal to any man of sense, how the ringleaders of a mutiny (the extent of which was not fully known) could be seized, or their persons be secured afterwards, by seven people, while arms were left in the hands of 1000, all of whom, perhaps, might be interested in their release; it therefore became absolutely necessary to make an immediate distinction; and the Native Officers being all Moormen, and a Mussulman plot already detected in other quarters, I determined to disarm the Mussulmen alone, as the only means left of preserving our trust; at the same time I confided arms but sparingly to the rest, and made them relieve each other at each

who had been prevented firing, by some one knocking him down; that a Native Officer had been observed loading a musket with the same view—adverting also to what you mentioned having overheard a Native Officer say on the night of the 19th, while shutting the door of the godown in which he was confined, “That he knew nothing; that he overheard Sheik Hyder say at the Mosque, that they must kill all the Europeans.” All the above circumstances corroborating in a manner the Evidence afterwards taken of a conspiracy, certainly induced me to approve the precautionary measures taken by you between the 19th and the 21st, for the security of the Fort.

Q.—Did you not see and approve all the Letters I wrote on the 19th and 20th, viz. one to Colonel Campbell, two to Colonel Dyce, one to Colonel Agnew, one to Ceylon*, and one to Quilon?

A.—I do not recollect seeing any Letters to Colonel Dyce of those dates, before their dispatch; one to Colonel Campbell of the 19th was left with me to

post, with only muskets sufficient for the number on duty; adding all the drummers and fifers (Christians) to our own small party; and at the moment I marched the Moormen out of the Fort, I assured them of my confidence that most of them would prove innocent, though my duty compelled me to separate them from their Native Officers, until an investigation should have taken place. Not an unkind expression escaped me to any man, and they all acknowledged the justice of my proceedings, nor did one of them ever offer to vouch for the innocence of any one of the Native Officers.

(Signed) J. WELSH.

* Here I refer the reader to the Letters themselves, which prove that the Ceylon one was first written. Vide page 58.—J. WELSH.

dispatch by express, on your leaving Mr. Douglas's bungalow on the morning of the 19th. The one to Quilon was shewn me early on the morning of the 20th, before any Evidence had been taken about the conspiracy. I certainly read it, and, to the best of my recollection, neither expressed approbation or disapprobation of it. The Letter to Ceylon I suggested being wrote, as, in the event of the mistrust among the Native Troops being more general, Colonel Campbell might not have it in his power to detach any European force to Tinnevelly. The Letter to Colonel Agnew you shewed me while at dinner at your house, and after my perusal of it, you handed it over to Mr. Hepburn.

Q.—Did you not peruse my Official Report of the 25th November to Colonel Dyce?

A.—I did.

Q.—Whose was the measure of putting prisoners in irons, and when?

A.—Colonel Dyce ordered them in irons, between six and seven P.M. of the 21st.

Q.—Did we not all disapprove of Colonel Dyce's measure of putting the Native Officers in irons?

A.—You came to my tent on the morning of the 21st, and told me it was Colonel Dyce's intention to put them immediately in irons; and you begged I would speak to him to dissuade him from the step. I told you Colonel Dyce was the best judge of the necessity of the measure; that I declined speaking to

the Colonel on the subject; but that you might mention to him, that it was my opinion that the step appeared to me unnecessary and premature.

Q.—Were not my Butler and Ramasawmy in public confinement for two or three days, until Mr. Ringle-taube proposed their release?

A.—They were.

Q.—Did not Colonel Dyce make out an Address *from the Native Inhabitants of the District in English*, and send it to you, to be translated into the country languages?

A.—He did.

Q.—Were not the prisoners released several days before their partial trial came on?

A.—I cannot speak with any certainty of the time of the prisoners' release, having left the Fort before that event.

Q.—Did not Colonel Dyce apparently applaud and approve my conduct, even after he had seen every Deposition?

A.—He more than once regretted to me the want of stronger Evidence, but his acts on the morning of the 21st—of swearing the Hindoos, arming them, and making promotions of Officers from among them—I could not consider in any other light than a decided approbation of all you had done in regard to the Moormen of the Corps.

Q.—Did not two Sepoys and the Vakeel read a Letter to us on the morning of the 20th, from Travan-

core, hinting at a dissolution of the Corps he belonged to, in course of a month? I do not ask the real and future interpretation of that Letter, but the first reading of it.

A.—The first reading of that Letter was interpreted to you, as you state.

(Signed) G. STRATTON.

Tinnevelly, 5th March, 1807.

(A true Copy).

(Signed) J. WELSH.

*Copy of a Letter from Captain Pepper, received in
Calcutta 10th June, 1807.*

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

DEAR SIR,

I AM deputed by the Officers of the Corps, to present you with the accompanying Address, which would have been sent you at an earlier period, but was unavoidably postponed, owing to the absence of a great majority on duty at the Presidency.

With every wish for your health and happiness, believe me to remain,

Your very sincere Friend,

(Signed) H. H. PEPPER,
Capt. 1st Bat. 3rd Reg. N. I.

COPY OF THE ADDRESS.

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

DEAR SIR,

AFTER the severe mortification you have suffered, in being so suddenly deprived of the Command of a Corps in which you had so long served, with equal credit to yourself and advantage to the public service, it will perhaps be some gratification to your wounded feelings, to receive the unqualified approbation of those Officers who have acted under you. Permit us, therefore, to express our regret at the loss of your society as a Friend and Commanding Officer, and our extreme satisfaction at the most Honorable Acquittal by which a Court-Martial has evinced to the public, what our private knowledge of the transactions at Pallamcottah had long taught us to anticipate.

While we lament the many expences you have incurred, and the heavy disappointments you have sustained, we cannot forbear expressing a hope, that as your innocence has already appeared, every farther knowledge of the unhappy event alluded to, will shew, not only the propriety, but the evident necessity of the measures you adopted on the occasion

With sincerest wishes for your health, happiness,
and future prosperity,

We remain,

Your very sincerely-attached Friends,

(Signed)

H. H. PEPPER,
Capt. 1st Bat. 3rd Reg.

J. WILSON,
Lieut. and Adj.

A. B. PERKINS,
Lieut. 1st Bat. 3rd Reg.

R. R. GORE,
Lieutenant.

HENRY DUMAS,
Lieutenant.

Trichinopoly,
1st May, 1807.

(A true Copy).

(Signed)

J. WELSH.

(COPY).

ANSWER.

To Captain H. H. Pepper, Lieutenants J. Wilson, A. B. Perkins, R. R. Gore, and H. Dumas, of the 1st Battalion 3rd Regiment Native Infantry.

DEAR GENTLEMEN,

I HAVE received, with emotions of sincere pleasure, your friendly Address of the 1st May, and beg you will (one and all) accept my grateful acknowledgments for the same.

At a time when (worn down with oppression and sickness) I am about to quit India for my native country, nothing could have been so gratifying to my feelings, as this handsome testimony of the esteem and approbation of Brother Officers with whom I have long served in the field; with whom I have ever been

in habits of intimacy and friendship; and in whose society I have passed some of the happiest hours of my life.

Be assured, Gentlemen, that as often as I recal to mind the signal interposition of Providence, in preserving our lives from assassination on the 19th November last, I shall think of the readiness, spirit, and unanimity, with which you resolved to live or die in defence of my authority (in accompanying me to the Barracks that day), and of the patience, fortitude, and good humour, with which you bore the subsequent incessant duties which I was obliged (for the general safety) to impose on you.

Few men have ever been placed in such a trying situation as we were on that occasion, and I am proud to think, we did our duty. Linked as we were before by the ties of friendship, the occurrences of that day have doubly cemented the union: this has been one great cause of my uneasiness in being deprived of a Command which had endeared you all to me, and in which my constant endeavours were, to do justice (with impartiality) to every individual, both European and Native.

I remain, Dear Gentlemen, with every good wish for your health and prosperity,

Your sincere friend and well-wisher,

(Signed) J. WELSH.

*Calcutta,
June 10, 1807.*

(A true Copy).

(Signed) J. WELSH.

*Copy of a Letter received on board the Indus Extra
Indiaman, in Madras Roads, from Major Charles
Trotter*, Commanding the Dooly Bearers at Madras.*

[The Original given in at the India-House.]

Madras, 21st July, 1807.

MY DEAR WELSH,

AFTER the affair of your Court-Martial, and when you had left Madras for Bengal, I had unexpectedly an opportunity of coming to a better knowledge, and further testimony, of the guilt of the Corps in general, and of Mahomed Ishack (Havildar Major) in particular.

I was told in confidence, upon a promise of profound secrecy, by a Moorman who was present, that if it had not been for your quickness, in being before-hand with them, the plot forming was nearly ripe, for killing the Officers, and all the Europeans in the Garrison of Pal-

* This Major Trotter, who has been twenty-three years in the Coast Army, and perfectly understands the country languages, has ever been a steady friend and admirer of the Natives; and although he was nearly butchered at Vellore in July last (when his Corps murdered their Officers), yet would he not credit the general rumours of a plot, or believe that the Moormen of the 1st Battalion 3rd Regiment, which I commanded (and in which we had both served as Captains for several years, mostly in the field), could be guilty of such treachery (it having been one of the best Corps in the Service). He always thought I had acted on sufficient grounds, but was loath to believe the real delinquency of men whom he had known so long, and who had hitherto been so faithful. I therefore consider the unexpected touching of the Indus at Madras, as a fortunate circumstance, as it furnished me with so respectable a voucher, in proof of my unvaried assertions of a mutiny in the Corps, and in corroboration of the many Depositions already recorded in these pages.—1807.

(Signed) J. WELSH.

lamcottah; and *Mahomed Ishack** had declared of his own free will and accord, that he would himself be the person who would kill or dispatch the Major (meaning you) of the Corps.

I remain,

Ever faithfully and affectionately yours,

(Signed) CH^s. TROTTER.

(A true Copy).

(Signed) J. WELSH.

Of the Native Officers mentioned in the course of this Narrative, the following only remain still in confinement (without any final sentence) :

Subadar Sheik Hyder,
Subadar Secunder Khan, and } in prison in the Fort of Pallamcottah.
Subadar Sheik Nutter,

(Signed) J. WELSH.

On board the Indus, on the passage to England, Sept. 1807.

Note added at Madras, in January 1809.—I found on my return to Madras from England, that after my departure, Government had turned out the following Native Officers of the Corps, and given them small pensions, merely to keep them from starving :

Subadars—Sheik Hyder, Secunder Khan, Sheik Nutter, Ebraum Khan, and Abdul Nubby.

Jemadars—Several, names forgotten. (Signed) J. WELSH.

Q.—If innocent, why disgraced?—if guilty, was it not an acknowledgment in my favour?

* I afterwards promoted the Havildar Major to Jemadar and Subadar, to his utter astonishment; and he always evinced much gratitude for the same, and compunction for his former misconduct.—A. D. 1830.

COPY
OF A
CORRESPONDENCE AND MEMORIAL,
DATED 22ND APRIL, 1810,
ABOUT
PRIZE AGENCY FOR TRAVANCORE.

To the Right Honorable Gilbert Lord Minto, Governor-General, &c. &c. &c. Fort St. George.

MY LORD,

I TAKE the liberty to lay before you, a Memorial to the Honorable the Court of Directors, which I trust your Lordship will have the goodness to forward, as a Number in the next General Dispatch from this Presidency.

Your Lordship in Council having disallowed my claim to Commission as Prize-Agent, it becomes a painful duty to lay my circumstances before you, and to solicit that Government will allow me to retain that sum, until the decision of the Court of Directors be obtained.

On my arrival at Madras in January last year, I petitioned Government for an advance, to enable me to pay off a debt for passage-money, &c. amounting to 1500 pagodas, and to fit myself out for the service on which I was then going; and in the month of March, 450 pagodas were accorded me, payable within the twelve months; but which, from retrenchment, &c. I have not been able hitherto to return. My debt to the Prize Sales amounts to 739 pagodas, having (in order to increase the public fund) purchased many useless articles; and my Commission, amounting to 1038 pagodas (at 2½ per cent.) make a total debt to Government of 2227 pagodas. Having paid my passage-money out of the Commission (when I could not

suppose it would be disallowed), I solemnly declare, I have no possible means to discharge this debt, independent of several private ones, and my allowances are barely sufficient to support a family, now consisting of a mother, wife, and three children.

With many apologies for the trouble I have been so unfortunate as to give your Lordship in Council,

I have the Honor to be, with respect,

Your Lordship's most obedient humble Servant,

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

Bangalore,
22nd April, 1810.

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

HONORABLE SIRs,

It is not without considerable reluctance that I am compelled again to address your Honorable Court, even before I have been so fortunate as to receive your decision on my former Memorial, under date the 3rd April, 1807.

But, conscious as I feel of the justice of this appeal, and relieved in a great measure by the kindness of an unerring and gracious Providence, from the principal effect of that censure, which (aiming at my reputation as a Soldier) caused my former Address, I take the liberty to lay before you, a Series of Correspondence on the subject of property captured from the public enemy in Travancore, at the commencement of the

late year, and humbly solicit your kind interference in behalf of a claim, which (without meaning the slightest disrespect to those authorities who have, unfortunately for me, seen it in a different light), I still conceive to be well-founded.

I trust the accompanying papers will fully establish, that I was appointed a Prize-Agent by the Honorable Lieutenant-Colonel Sentleger, and also that this appointment was acknowledged by the British Resident in Travancore; but the particular circumstances under which that appointment (with the suffrages of the Army) was obtained, are, I fear, little known to your Honorable Court, and should never have been communicated by me, but for the continued persecutions of adverse fortune under which I have been labouring for several years, without even a distant prospect of relief, if not supported by your liberality and justice.

On the 5th February, 1809, I joined the Southern Force (then within one march of its position before the Arambooly Lines of Travancore), and took the Command of the 2nd Battalion 3rd Regiment, a Corps to which I was a perfect stranger.

The next evening the Honorable Lieutenant-Colonel Sentleger called upon me, and entrusted me with a Detached Command in Advance, within shot of the Lines, and from which I was not relieved during the time the Force remained in that position. In this situation I was constantly employed, day and night, without rest, until the 10th, when the Colonel consented to my entreaties to be permitted to storm a fortified

hill, which flanked and commanded the strong Lines of Arambooly, and which assault (contrary to the general opinion both of the storming party and the whole force) was attended with complete success.

I take the liberty to forward copies of the Documents in support of this assertion, and trust your Honorable Court will confirm the only benefit likely to be derived from that service.

The Commission which I claim, cannot certainly be any object to a great Government, but the loss of it must add considerably to the pecuniary embarrassments, against which a large family have been struggling for many years, and which were not a little increased by my recent short trip to England, for the recovery my health.

I have the Honor to be, with due respect,

Honorable Sirs,

Your most obedient and faithful Servant,

(Signed)

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

Bangalore, April 22, 1810.

(COPY).

N^o 1.

To Major J. Welsh, 3rd Regiment N. I., &c. &c. &c.

SIR,

GOVERNMENT having disallowed the claim to Prize, of the Troops that served in Travancore

during the late hostilities, I have in consequence to require, that the amount of money that proceeded from the Sales in the Southern portion of Travancore, of property, of whatsoever description, supposed to be Prize, may be forthwith paid into my Treasury, in order that the directions of Government, with respect to that property, may be fulfilled.

I have the Honor to be, Sir,

Your very obedient humble Servant,

(Signed) C. MACAULAY,
Resident.

Quilon,
9th June, 1807.

(A true Copy).

(Signed) J. WELSH.

N^o. 12.

To the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort St. George.

SIR,

I AM extremely sorry to be obliged to trouble you to lay before the Honorable the Governor in Council, this Letter and its Enclosures, on the subject of Prize-money for property captured from the enemies of the British Government, during the late war in Travancore.

But having been nominated by the Officer Commanding the Southern Field Force (and by the suffrages of my brother Officers) the Prize-Agent for the Company's Troops of that Detachment, I conceive myself impe-

riously called upon (in the fulfilment of the duties of that solemn trust) to use my best endeavours to obtain, at the hands of a just and liberal Government, a sanction to the claims of a Detachment, whose operations have been honored with its public approbation.

Referring to Letter No. 1, just received from Lieutenant-Colonel Macaulay, British Resident in Travancore, I beg leave to state circumstances for the consideration of Government, instead of replying direct to Lieutenant-Colonel Macaulay, and I trust the evident necessity of the reference, will plead my excuse for intruding on the attention of Government in this instance.

In the first place, I take the liberty to enclose an Abstract of the Account of Prize Sales, by which it will appear, that of 41,446 pagodas, little more than 5000 have been collected.

Of the sums still due, there are 26,500 pagodas to be received from the new Dewaun, to whom we sold the Prize Tobacco, at the request of the Resident, who promised to use every exertion to induce him to pay us immediately the stipulated price.

The other articles of captured property, which Captain Lindsay and I had collected with much difficulty (from the nature of the places in which some of them were concealed by the enemy), were transported to our camp near Trevanderam, and sold by public auction, upon the faith of being allowed to make lawful prize of the arms and effects of a beaten enemy; and

purchased almost entirely by Officers of the Detachment, at a most exorbitant rate (in general, at least four times the real value), on the supposition of being entitled to, and paying for them out of, their share of Prize-money; and also with the laudable motive of increasing the general stock, for the benefit of the brave fellows serving under them. Of the various purchasers, a few were Officers who have since returned to Ceylon, and a few belonged to the Travancore Subsidiary Force, but all under the same expectation of sharing Prize-money; and no other supposition could have in any manner excused the many ridiculous purchases that were made at those sales, by men whose pay was barely sufficient for their support in an expensive country. The nominal time of payment was the first issue of pay for May, by which period it was supposed all our accounts would be settled, and a distribution take place; and we took care to request that Gentlemen should keep within the probable share to which they might respectively be entitled.

The sales were hardly over, before the general knowledge of the Extract No. 2, not only led every man in the Detachment to conceive that his claim to Prize-money was allowed, but also to expect a much larger reward for his services; as it was well known, that the ordnance, arms, and military stores captured from the enemy (and now at the disposal of the British Government) were worth many lacs of pagodas; and

as it appeared by that Letter, that the sums collected by us for sundries at the Prize Sales, were to be deducted from the amount to be paid to the Army, for the ordnance, &c. Captain Lindsay and I determined, as the readiest mode of adjusting our accounts, that the sums due by each Corps, should be finally deducted from their share of Prize-money.

Our Detachment being entirely broke up and separated before the 1st of May, it would have been impossible to have collected the money from individuals, who were now spread all over the country, even were it the intention of Government to oblige them to pay for their purchases, without allowing them any recompense for their losses, &c. on that service.

But, from a careful perusal of the Extract No. 2, I am induced to hope, and encouraged in the supposition, notwithstanding the high authority of a Letter coming from a British Resident (which, had I remained in Travancore, I must have immediately obeyed), that Lieutenant-Colonel Macaulay has in this instance misconceived the intentions of Government.

If I am unfortunately mistaken, and some (to me) unknown cause has induced the Honorable the Governor in Council to withdraw his favourable decision from the Troops in whose behalf I have taken this (otherwise improper) liberty, I humbly request, that such decision may be made known, so as to exonerate me from the stigma which would attach to me, had I neglected the interests of my fellow-soldiers, who

having honored me with their confidence, must naturally look to me for a completion of their wishes.

I trust, Sir, that if I have unintentionally touched on any point beyond what my duty as a Prize-Agent would warrant, that it may be attributed to the true cause, an anxious zeal to perform my trust, and not to any other motive.

I have the Honor to be, &c.

Nundydroog,
1st July, 1809.

(Signed) J. WELSH,
Major, and Prize-Agent for
the Company's Troops of the
Southern Field Detachment.

(EXTRACT).

From the Minutes of the Honorable the Governor in Council, in the Military Department, dated the 18th July, 1809.

[Here enter Letter 10th July, B.]

“ It appears, on perusal of the foregoing Letter and
“ its Enclosures, that the Orders of Government, re-
“ specting the disposal of the property captured during
“ the late disturbances in Travancore, have been mis-
“ construed; for though the Board do not admit that
“ prize can be made in the suppression of a rebellion
“ by the aid of the military power, yet they had
“ resolved to reward the services of the Troops em-
“ ployed against the Dewaun of Travancore and his
“ adherents, by a donation equivalent to the value of
“ the ordnance and military stores employed offensively
“ by the insurgents and captured from them on the

“ field of battle, or abandoned from the terror of our
 “ arms ; of which resolutions the Resident in Tra-
 “ vancore had already been apprized. Resolved there-
 “ fore, that Copy of the Orders of Government to the
 “ Resident, on this subject, be sent to Major Welsh
 “ for his information, and that the Military Auditor-
 “ General be informed, that no retrenchment or
 “ stoppage is to be made from any Officer on account
 “ of the purchases he may have made at the sales of
 “ the property captured in Travancore, until a final
 “ adjustment of the concern take place, at which time
 “ those Officers whose purchases exceed the amount
 “ of their respective shares of the proposed donation,
 “ are to be called upon to refund the excess.”

(A true Extract).

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

(A true Extract).

(Signed) JOHN R. VERNON,
 Military Secretary to the
 Commander-in-Chief.

(EXTRACT).

To the Resident at Travancore.

SIR,

I AM directed by the Honorable the Governor
 in Council to acknowledge the receipt of your Letter
 of the 22nd instant, and to acquaint you, that, under

the declarations made in the Proclamation published on the advance of the Troops into Travancore, and the subsequent conduct of the Rajah, which entitles him to the benefit of these declarations, the Governor in Council is decidedly of opinion, that neither the property of the Rajah, nor of any of his subjects, can, without a breach of public faith, be deemed to be lawful prize; the British Government never having considered itself to be at war with the Rajah.

The Governor in Council accordingly desires, that you will furnish the proprietors of the vessels, tobacco, and other property, which had been conveyed for adjudication to the Prize Court at Columbo, with authenticated Copies of that Proclamation, and with such other documents and information as may be necessary, to enable them to obtain the restoration of their property.

The Governor in Council is at the same time fully sensible, that the Troops suffered all the losses and privations, and encountered all the dangers to which they would probably have been exposed in an avowed and open war with the Rajah of Travancore; and he thinks that a distinction may reasonably be made, between the ordnance, arms, and military stores, which the Rajah's rebellious subjects had seized upon, and employed as instruments and means of offence against the British Troops, and all other articles of property belonging to the Rajah or his subjects, which may have fallen into the possession of the Troops but

which were not instruments or means of offence used to oppose the advance of the Troops.

(ORIGINAL).

Extract of a Letter from the Governor to the Resident in Travancore, referred to as No. 2, by the Prize-Agents.

The Governor in Council has accordingly resolved, as an additional mark of the high sense which he entertains of the gallant conduct of the Troops employed in the suppression of the late disturbances in Travancore, that a sum of money equal to the value of such ordnance, arms, and military stores, shall be paid to the Troops. This value shall be adjusted by the Military Board, subject to the approbation of the Governor in Council.

This equivalent will be granted for the ordnance, arms, and military stores, captured or found at the places, or on the occasions, under-mentioned :

The Lines at Arambooly,

The Battle at Nagracoile,

The Forts of Palpanavarum and Owdeggherry,

The Battles and Actions fought by the Troops at Quilon and Cochin,

The Ordnance, Arms, and Military Stores, which may have fallen into the possession of the Troops under the Command of Lieutenant-Colonel Cuppage,

before he received notice of the suspension of hostilities, in consequence of the Letter of the 24th February last, addressed by the Rajah to the Resident.

As the amount of the expence which may attend the granting this equivalent, will be charged to the account of the Rajah of Travancore, it will be proper that a deduction should be made from the amount, equal to the value of the property of every other description belonging to the Rajah, or his subjects, which, in consequence of orders from the Officer Commanding the Troops, may have been sold, or disposed of in such manner as may preclude its being restored to the owners.

The pepper, and all other property belonging to the Honorable Company, must be restored, or the value of it deducted from the sum to be paid to the Troops.

The Governor in Council will hereafter decide what Forces, Corps, Detachments, or Individuals, shall be allowed to participate in the sum of money which may become payable to the Troops under these orders, and under what rules the division of it shall be made.

*Major James Welsh, 3rd Regiment Native Infantry,
Agent for Prize with the late Southern Detachment,
serving against Travancore.*

SIR,

I HAD the honor to address you, under authority from Government, on the 9th of last June,

and now transmit a Copy of that Letter, which may possibly have miscarried.

2nd, You will be pleased to observe, by the accompanying Extract of a Letter, dated the 1st instant, from the Chief Secretary to Government, that an explanation upon the subject is expected.

I have the Honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient humble Servant,

(Signed) C. MACAULAY,
Resident.

Ponterah,
12th December, 1809.

Extract of a Letter from the Chief Secretary to Government of Fort St. George, to the Resident at Travancore, dated the 1st of December, 1809.

3rd, I am directed to remind you of the promise contained in your Letter of 9th June last, to furnish the reply to the requisition made by you to the Agents for Prize with the Southern Detachment, for the amount of money in their hands, produced by the sale of any property in Travancore. This document has not yet been received. Lieutenant-Colonel Hamilton has furnished to Government an Account Sale of the articles under charge of Captain Sale and him, the proceeds of which you had required them to surrender.

(True Extract).

(Signed) C. MACAULAY,
Resident.

(COPY).

*To Lieutenant-Colonel Macaulay, British Resident in
Travancore.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your Letter of the 12th December, with its Enclosures; in reply to which I beg leave to state, that on receipt of your former Letter, of the 9th June, I addressed Government on the subject, and the answer (copies of which enclosed) led me to suppose that it was not necessary to reply to you direct on the subject, having already furnished accounts of particulars of sale, both when at Oodagherry and since. I have now the pleasure to hand you an Abstract of the whole, with an Account of Cash collected, the Balance of which (now in Captain Lindsay's charge at Madras) is at your disposal and demand, provided we do not receive prior instructions direct from Government.

I take the liberty also to enclose copies of two or three papers regarding the purchases made by the Dewaun, in case the pressure of more important business should have obliterated the circumstances from your memory; and should Government object to the charge of Agency, I entreat you will state the justice of our claim, from the knowledge which you possess on the subject; and at the same time I solemnly de-

clare, I would not again consent to the same drudgery,
for double the amount of my share.

I have the Honor to be, Sir,

Your most obedient humble Servant,

(Signed) J. WELSH, &c.

Bangalore,

6th January, 1810.

To the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort St. George.

SIR,

WE have received with extreme concern, an order from the Secretary to the Seringapatam Prize Committee, directing us to pay into the Honorable Company's Treasury, the whole sum supposed to have been collected by us, as Prize-Agents to the Honorable Colonel Sentleger's Detachment, and disallowing our Commission on the sum upon our books.

We therefore lose no time in requesting you will lay before the Right Honorable the Governor General in Council, this Letter and its Enclosures, trusting that a thorough knowledge of the whole circumstances, will induce his Lordship to admit our charge of Agency as both just and reasonable.

In the first place, we take the liberty to state our conviction, that the exertions of the Detachment to which we belonged, and particularly the successful storm of the Arambooly Lines on the 10th February (on which service we both had the honor to be em-

ployed), when battering cannon were not within 200 miles of our Force, were the means, under Providence, of preventing a long protracted and expensive war, if not the destruction of the Travancore Subsidiary Force, then surrounded by an inveterate enemy, and cut off from all apparent succour. On that occasion, we were selected by the united voice of our Brother Officers, and the sanction of the Officer Commanding, to act as Prize-Agents. The war, which had before threatened to prove long and desultory, from the known preparations and resources of the enemy, was concluded in a few days; but our labours as Prize-Agents continued, without respite or intermission, day and night, until the 8th of April; during which period, we collected and disposed of a quantity of trash (which had been left by the enemy, as not worth removing) for generally three and four times the value.

In case it should be argued that we did not collect the sum upon our books, and consequently are not entitled to the Agency, we beg leave to urge, that although we were prevented from realizing the whole proceeds, yet we had the same trouble in making out and delivering separate bills to each individual, before we left the Travancore country. We therefore trust it it cannot be supposed, that we were to be put to a species of labour, entirely new to us, and not allowed to reap that benefit which was publicly held out to us by established precedent, as the reward of those labours.

We further take the liberty to point out, that Mr. Sawyer (a Portuguese Writer to the Paymaster at Pallamcottah) received 5 per cent. for the sale of some of the horses, in the capture of which he had no concern whatever, and which we conceived should have been handed over to us; and although we are extremely sorry to be reduced to such a comparison, we feel confident that our claim will be found to surpass that of Mr. Sawyer, inasmuch as our exertions first obtained not only the articles which we sold, but also those which produced his Agency.

We have the Honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient humble Servants,

(Signed) J. WELSH,

H. LINDSAY,
Prize-Agents Southern Force.

March 1810.

(COPY).

*To Captain Maclean, Secretary to the Seringapatam
Prize Committee.*

SIR,

IN reply to your Letter of the 23rd February, we take the liberty to forward a Letter and Enclosures to the Chief Secretary to Government, which we request you will lay before the Committee, to be (by it) forwarded to him; and we trust, that until the the decision of the Right Honorable the Governor-General in Council be obtained, we shall stand ex-

cused for not complying with the order conveyed through you to us.

(Signed) J. WELSH,
H. LINDSAY.

March 1810.

(COPY).

N^o. 1.

To Colonel Sentleger.

MY DEAR SIR,

UNDERSTANDING that there are various public store-rooms in the adjacent sea-port villages, on both sides, with coire, tobacco, and other public stores, we wish to ascertain how far we are authorized to proceed, and to have it positively specified, to what extent we are authorized to seize and dispose of those articles, as a ready sale now offers to any amount. We particularly observed yesterday on the passage, that one place alone contains 3000 bales of tobacco, which we could dispose of for upwards of 20,000 pagodas.

(Signed) J. WELSH.

March 20, 1809.

Camp, 22nd March, 1809.

MY DEAR WELSH,

I SUSPECT that we could not touch property under the protection of our Courts and Government at Manapar, at least I do not see how

the thing is practicable. I am of opinion, that you should decline dealings with Moosa's man; he purchases with the design of smuggling, and as he would be prevented doing so, you might not so readily get your cash. Believe me,

Yours truly,

(Signed) C. MACAULAY.

Major Welsh, &c.

N^o. 2.

To Major Welsh, Prize-Agent, Oodagerry.

SIR,

I AM directed by Lieutenant-Colonel the Honorable A. Sentleger, to acknowledge receipt of your private Letter of date the 20th instant, and in reply to inform you, that it would appear advisable to take possession of all the tobacco, coire, &c. that may be found within the *public store-houses* of the villages situated on the sea-coast, and within (but on no account beyond) the lines of the Travancore country; and after disposing of the articles to the best advantage, you will be pleased to retain the amount of sales in your possession, until it is finally adjudged, and further directions as to its disposal be communicated to you by the British Resident in Travancore.

(Signed) CHARLES CUNINGHAM,
P. S.

Camp,

21st March, 1809.

(EXTRACT).

N^o. 3.

“MY DEAR WELSH, “THE Colonel wishes you
 “not to be in a hurry in forming any arrangement
 “respecting the brass guns. The reason is, that he
 “has it in contemplation to offer the captured guns to
 “Government, and ask a donation of twelve months’
 “batta in return: Colonel Macaulay has promised to
 “promote this arrangement. With regard to the
 “tobacco, the exportation of this article has been
 “prohibited, in consequence of which your purchaser
 “may wish to get rid of his bargain. If he, however,
 “likes his bargain, *and comes down with the cash*, you
 “may let it stand, otherwise the Dewaun will take it
 “off your hands, on the same terms as you have agreed
 “with the agent of Moosa.”

 N^o. 4.

*To Major Welsh and Captain Lindsay, Prize-Agents,
 Oodagerry.*

GENTLEMEN, I HAVE the honor to transmit, by
 order of Lieutenant-Colonel the Hon. A. Sentleger,
 Copy of a Letter this moment received from the British
 Resident in Travancore, to which I am directed to call
 your attention.

The Lieutenant-Colonel understands you have sold some tobacco to a merchant of the name of Mussah, and should he express any discontent at the directions contained in the Resident's Letter, you are to inform him, that you will receive back the tobacco, and the Dewaun of His Highness the Rajah will take it from you on the same terms.

(Signed) CHARLES CUNINGHAM,
P. S.

Camp,
22nd March, 1809.

N^o. 5.

March 24th, 1809.

Colonel Macaulay, Resident, &c.

MY DEAR SIR,

I INTENDED to write to you fully yesterday, along with Cooniah Amud's Letter, but receiving intelligence of the Dewaun and his family, we started at noon, and went twelve miles off in heavy rain, where we were disappointed, as usual. We found a confidential servant, and the elephant driver (who pointed him out) declared, that when the Dewaun's family left the place, they left property, which was carried there from Papanaveram on men's heads, to a very large amount. We tried all we could to obtain information of the treasure, but failed, and the house is a very large and strong, and intricate building.

We found three swords, and a treasure box empty, in a well, which we brought away, with the man, a prisoner, to this place. This business kept us away till this morning. I took care nothing should be plundered; but as all the people (twenty or thirty men and women) absconded, I fear their neighbours will now do it.

With regard to Cooniah Amud, I am particularly anxious that you should give a positive and final decision: he is a determined and shrewd fellow, and insists on the completion of our mutual agreement. We have not yet received cash from him, but he was to give us an order for the amount, when he got the whole. We were in the act of weighing out the brass and copper to him, when your Letter arrived: I put it off, but he still insists on his right to the whole. He offers to sell the tobacco to the Dewaun for profit, but will not give up the copper. He is to pay us 100 rupees for 4 bundles of the former, and 300 rupees per candy 560 rounds for the latter: I don't yet know how many candies we have of the latter.

We have learnt that there are 3500 bales of tobacco at Cotaun, besides grain, &c.; will the Dewaun buy this of us, at the old rate? if so, it will be our duty and interest to give him the preference.

We have a guard there now, and shall ride there to-morrow to ascertain further.

I will not in future allow any parties to go to villages in search of treasure, as I find it so useless, and fearing

you might disapprove of it, now that matters are in fair train for peace and tranquillity.

We conceive we have authority to dispose of all public property at Colochy, Oodagherry, Papenaverum, Nagrecoil, Cotaur, and the places to the northward of this; I hope we are right; and there is tobacco, I believe 3000 bundles, besides grain to a very large amount, on the sea-coast between Colochy and Poondra, not taken possession of. We are particularly anxious not to pass the bounds of our duty, and yet have no limits laid down for our guidance. A speedy answer will much oblige, &c. &c.

(Signed) J. WELSH.

N^o. 6.

*To Major Welsh and Captain Lindsay, Prize-Agents,
Oodagherry.*

SIRS,
I HAVE received your Letter of yesterday's date. I am directed by Lieutenant-Colonel the Hon. A. Sentleger, to reply, on the subject of elephants, that a communication has taken place with the Dewaun, and it is finally settled, that those which are now here, are not prize property, but to be returned to the Rajah. However, as it is well known that there were sixteen elephants against us at Nagrecoil, the Lieutenant-Colonel insisted upon their being delivered up to us, to which the Dewaun has agreed; and you

U

are in consequence to keep possession of the sixteen elephants you now state to be with you at Oodagerry, in lieu of those which were against us at Nagrecoil; but on no account, in *future*, to seize or interfere with elephants of any description in Travancore.

By Order,

(Signed) CHARLES CUNINGHAM,
P. S.

Camp,
23rd March, 1809.

(EXTRACT).

N^o. 7.

COLONEL SENTLEGER, having sent Coonce Ahmud off to the Dewaun, desired us to write a few lines by way of elucidation, a copy of which is here enclosed. We trust Colonel Macaulay will overlook any irregularity in this Correspondence, as we are working hard for the public good. If to this he will kindly add his influence to get the Dewaun to pay as well as promise, he will confer a particular favour, not only on us, but on all our Detachment. We have agreed with this Agent about all the tobacco: he is to give us one hundred rupees per candy for that at Cootachie, and sixty for that at Cothaur; but we are anxious to know whether we are certain of the money, and may allow them to carry away the tobacco.

(EXTRACT).

N^o. 8.*To Major Welsh, &c.*

COLONEL MACAULAY desires me to say, that he has recommended to the Dewaun to pay the Prize-Agents as soon as he conveniently can, which he has no doubt of his doing.

I am, dear Sir,

Yours very truly,

*Quilon,
9th April, 1809.*

(Signed) K. MACAULAY.

(EXTRACT).

N^o. 9.

ENCLOSED we address the Dewaun again, to close our accounts, and therefore antedating, hope the Colonel will approve and forward it. We already feel sensible of the Colonel's kindness in our behalf, and trust that, however Government may dispose of the sum on our books, we shall still be allowed our Agency out of it; considering that our exertions have produced 16,000 pagodas out of, I might almost say, nothing, at the Prize Sales, and that we have been perfect slaves at it for near two months. As for me, I have by it been deprived of the satisfaction of being with my family, &c.

Sent 13th April.

J. WELSH.

N^o. 10.

To Major Welsh and Captain Lindsay, Prize-Agents.

GENTLEMEN,

I AM directed by the Honorable Lieutenant-Colonel Sentleger, to desire that you will forthwith suspend all further sale of captured property, of whatever description, and that you will forward to him, with as little delay as possible, an account of what has been brought on your books as sold, and of what remains undisposed of.

I have the Honor to be,

Gentlemen,

Your most obedient Servant,

(Signed) T. TOWNSEND,
M. B.

*Camp,
8th April, 1809.*

N^o. 11.

To the Major of Brigade, S. F.

SIR,

WE have received your Letter of this date, and have the honor to acquaint you (for the information of the Honorable Lieutenant-Colonel Sentleger), that we have already disposed of all property in our possession, with the exception of some public grain and salt on the sea-coast, in different places, and a chest of

tinsel and old silver, sent by us to Pallamcottah, with about 2000 or 3000 rupees, which we shall carry to the public account on our arrival. We herewith have sent an account of particulars, hastily drawn up, but which we believe to be correct, by which the Honorable Lieutenant-Colonel Sentleger will observe, that our exertions have been productive of some benefit to the public fund; at the same time we should be greatly obliged, if a correct copy could be taken of it for us, as we have none but on scraps of paper, hastily scratched over, not having any spare time on our hands, and not expecting to be so soon called upon for one for the public. We are now proceeding to Pallamcottah, to settle our account with the Natives, who have purchased to a large amount.

We have, &c. &c.

J. WELSH,
H. LINDSAY.

Oodagerry,
April 8, 1809.

*To Lieutenant-Colonel W. M'Leod, Commanding
H. M. 69th Regiment.*

SIR,

As the Senior Officer in India, of the Southern Force, lately employed against Travancore, we beg leave to acquaint you, that Government has signified to us (through the Seringapatam Prize Committee), its determination to disallow our claim to Commission on the sum realized by our exertions as Prize-Agents;

and as we conceive that claim to be founded on justice, and established by every rule, civil and military (setting aside the question, to whom the proceeds are eventually to be handed over), inasmuch as we acted as auctioneers, collected and sold the articles by lot, &c. &c., we take the liberty to request you will have the goodness to support our claim, by stating, for the information of the Right Honorable the Governor-General in Council, what came within your own knowledge on the subject, or in any other manner which to you may appear most likely to induce Government to allow our Commission, and relieve us from a heavy, and we trust unmerited, loss.

(Signed) J. WELSH,
H. LINDSAY.

March 1810.

(COPY).

To the Military Secretary to the Commander-in-Chief.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to transmit a Letter, addressed to me by the Prize-Agents of the Force employed in the Southern District of Travancore, during the late campaign; and request you will be pleased to submit its contents to the Commander-in-Chief.

I trust the Commander-in-Chief will lay the peculiar hard case of Major Welsh and Captain Lindsay before Government.

Being second in Command with that Division of the Army, I can bear ample testimony to the zeal, trouble, and indefatigable exertions of the Prize-Agents, in collecting and disposing of the captured property; and I am persuaded I only give the sentiments of the whole of that Force, when I give my unqualified opinion, that Major Welsh and Captain Lindsay, the Prize-Agents, are fully entitled to the usual Commission granted to Prize-Agents in similar instances.

I take leave to add, that, whatever may be the ultimate decision of Government, respecting the appropriation of the captured property, Major Welsh and Captain Lindsay have an equal claim to the usual Commission of Prize-Agents, as I can assert, from my own positive knowledge, that Government is indebted to their unremitting zeal and exertions, for the greatest part of the property and military stores concealed in various parts of the country, but discovered by the vigilance and activity of the Prize-Agents: I say from my own personal knowledge, that whatever effects, of various description, fell into the hands of Government on that occasion, they are indebted for the greatest part to the vigilance and activity of the Prize-Agents.

I have the Honor to be, &c. &c.

(Signed)

W. MACLEOD,
Lieut.-Col. 69th Reg.

*Bangalore,
3rd March, 1810.*

Poonamullee, Thursday Morning.

MY DEAR WELSH,

I HAVE this moment received yours of the 3rd, 4th, together with one from Colonel Macleod, a Copy of which I send you. I shall not fail laying them before the Committee, but delay it until Saturday, on which day I intend going to Madras; indeed I have reason to think our flankers will march on, or perhaps upon that, to join the Head-Quarters. The result of our united application I shall not fail to communicate to you. I hope we may be successful: the recommendation of Colonel Macleod is, in my opinion, as strongly worded as well could be. We are at this place harassed with perpetual drill; were it to the purpose, I should not care.

With Compliments Mrs. Welsh and family,

I remain, yours very sincerely,

(Signed) H. LINDSAY.

Extract from the Minutes of the Right Honorable the Governor-General in Council, dated 30th March, 1810.

READ the following Letter from the Military Secretary to the Officer Commanding the Army-in-Chief.

On due consideration of all the circumstances connected with the application of Major Welsh and Captain Lindsay, for Commission on account of the property realized in Travancore, the Board, in ad-

mitting the merit of those Officers' exertions on the occasion, observe, that they cannot consistently accede to their request, more especially *as similar applications on the part of other Officers engaged in securing the public property in Travancore, has already been rejected, and acquiesced in by them.*

(A true Extract).

(Signed)

J. H. PEILE,
Secretary to Government.

(A true Extract).

(Signed)

N. M. SMYTHE,
Military Secretary to the
Commander-in-Chief.

*To the President and Members of the Seringapatam
Prize Committee.*

GENTLEMEN,

PARA. 1.—I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of your Letter, dated the 14th ultimo.

2nd.—The Right Honorable the Governor-General in Council, considers the appointment of Prize-Agents, and the whole proceedings connected with the subject of Prize in Travancore, to have been extremely irregular, and those transactions have in consequence never received the sanction of Government. His Lordship in Council has also determined, that the nature of the contest in the province, did not authorize the property which fell into our possession on that occasion, being considered in the light of prize or

booty. Under these considerations, His Lordship in Council cannot accede to the request of Major Welsh and Captain Lindsay, to be allowed Commission on the proceeds of the property collected and sold under their superintendence.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your most obedient Servant,

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

Fort St. George,
3rd April, 1810.

(A true Copy).

(Signed) **J. M'LEAN,**
Secretary.

*To the Honorable Colonel Sentleger, Commanding
Southern Force.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to submit for your consideration and approval, my Plan of Attack on the Southern Hill, should you have the goodness to allow me to attempt it.

After a second examination, from a rising ground in the neighbourhood of my present post, I find the principal impediment (independent of an unlooked-for defence) to consist in the thickness of the jungle at the foot of the hill, which appears to extend only a few hundred yards from the plain, after which it is more open and accessible.

PLAN.

1st, To march from the Advanced Post at eight P.M. with four short ladders, and a few Pioneers with tools; to proceed along the road lately cut by the Pioneers—whatever the darkness of the night may be, the rock on the summit will serve as a guide.

2nd, On arriving at the foot of the hill, to examine the jungle, and enter it nearly opposite the gap No. 1, having for a direction, some high *bluff rocks*, and which must be left considerably on our right flank. After ascending as high as the top of them, to turn a little to the right, where some open ground promises

an easy approach to No. 2, which I propose to escalate.

3rd, After entering at 2, to form into three divisions, sending one to the rock on the summit, and the other two to scour the works to the right and left, taking care, by bugle-signals, to be able to distinguish one another again.

I trust, Sir, that, by divine permission, all this may be effected by day-light in the morning.

It might most essentially contribute to our success, were a strong party to be pushed up the high road to the gateway, to draw off their attention by a feigned attack ; but this I do not urge as actually necessary.

Allow me, Sir, in conclusion, humbly to point out, that every delay may be attended with danger, as the enemy might by that means become acquainted with our views; and in that event, I do not see much prospect of success.

I have the Honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient and faithful Servant,

(Signed)

J. WELSH, Major,
Commanding Advance Party.

*Camp before Travancore Lines,
February 9, 1809.*

ATTACK ON TRAVANCORE LINES.



REFERENCES.

1. The Gap by which the Troops entered the Jungle.
2. The Spot proposed for Assault, and actually Escaladed by Major Welsh and the Fortorn Hope.
3. The Rock on the summit.
4. A large Battery, afterwards called Welsh's Battery.
5. Extremity of the Works.

DETACHMENT ORDERS.

*Head-Quarters Southern Force, two miles interior
of the Arambooly Gate, Feb. 10, 1809.*

D. O. Parole Welsh. Counter Sign Success.

LIEUTENANT-COLONEL the Honorable A. St. Leger has much satisfaction in conveying to the Troops under his Command, the most sincere Congratulations on the brilliant achievements of this morning. The Lieutenant-Colonel deems it a duty he owes to justice, to thus publicly mark the high consideration he entertains of the perseverance, judgment, and ability displayed by Major Welsh, commanding 3rd Regiment Native Infantry, in the Assault of this morning, where the greatness of the enterprize could only be equalled by the success which attended it.

The Lieutenant-Colonel requests Major Welsh will convey to the Officers and Men who composed the Detachment for Escalade under his Command, the most unqualified approbation of their gallant exertions, in accomplishing an object which must ever be considered as entitled to a high place on military record.

Lieutenant-Colonel the Honorable Sentleger requests Lieutenant-Colonel Macleod, and the Officers and Men of his Detachment, to accept of his cordial thanks, for the readiness displayed in the common cause. The Lieutenant-Colonel desires that senti-

ments of similar approbation be conveyed to the Non-Commissioned Officers and Privates, by their respective superiors.

Arrack and extra batta to be served to the Troops of the Detachment.

(Signed) A. BALMAIN,
Captain, M. B.

A few Letters, &c. were added, to let the Court of Directors know all the circumstances wherein I was held responsible for any failure of my plan, &c.

*To Lieutenant-Colonel the Honorable A. St. Leger,
Commanding the Southern Force.*

11th February, 1815.

SIR,

AFTER the distinguished honor you have been pleased to confer on me, and the Troops under my Command in the Assault of yesterday, I feel loath to trouble you with any further mention of the subject, lest it should be thought I wished to arrogate to myself that credit which alone belongs to my Maker; for to his mercy and favour only can our success be justly ascribed. But I feel it my duty to state for your information, that, considering the service we were going upon, to be more desperate than it afterwards proved, I applied for Volunteers to form a Forlorn Hope, ere we left the Advanced Post on the night of the 9th; and a Serjeant, Corporal, and twelve Privates, from H. M. 69th Companies, immediately came forward; and I should be guilty of base ingratitude to

them, were I to neglect not only mentioning their names, but also stating their exemplary good conduct during the night; and further, that when Lieutenant Bertram and I at their head, found ourselves (by the darkness of the night, and the extreme difficulty of the ascent) entirely separated from all our brothers in arms, without scaling ladders, they determined to mount the wall, by climbing upon one another's backs, and to sell their lives, or carry every thing solely by the bayonet, which they actually performed, as far as our extreme good fortune rendered necessary.

I trust, Sir, when all this is considered, that I shall stand excused for this intrusion, and for recommending Serjeant Malkin and his party, as also the Bugleman of the Pioneers, to the notice and favour of my superiors.

It is already so fully known to you, Sir, how gallantly every Officer and Man of this Detachment behaved, that I shall not attempt to add to their credit by my feeble praise.

(Signed) J. WELSH.

[Here follows a List.]

*To Major J. Welsh, Commanding 2nd Battalion 3rd
Regiment Native Infantry.*

SIR,

WE, the Officers composing the Storming Party under your Orders on the 10th February, 1809 (upon the Travancore Lines), fully impressed with a deep sense of your unwearied perseverance, distinguished gallantry, and superior judgment, beg your acceptance of a Piece of Plate, as a memorial of it.

W. SYMS, Captain, H. M. 69th Reg.
H. LINDSAY, Captain, H. M. 69th Reg.
H. H. PEPPER, Captain, 1st Bat. 3rd Reg.
I. CARFRAE, Captain, 2nd Bat. 3rd Reg.
C. LUCAS, Captain, 3rd Reg.
J. READ, Lieutenant, 69th Reg.
ROBERT CARY, Lieutenant, 69th Reg.
GEO. LANE, Lieutenant, 69th Reg.
S. BABY, Lieutenant, 69th Reg.
A. BABY, Lieutenant, 69th Reg.
R. R. GORE, Lieutenant, 3rd Reg. N. I.
JAMES WALKER, Lieutenant, 3rd Reg.
J. W. DAWSON, Lieutenant, 2nd Bat. 3rd Reg.
W. W. JEFFERY, Lieutenant, 2nd Bat. 3rd Reg. N. I.
R. INVERARITY, Lieutenant, 2nd Bat. 3rd Reg.
T. M. GOBLE, Lieutenant, 2nd Bat. 3rd Reg.
T. TAGG, Lieutenant, 2nd Bat. 3rd Reg.
C. ROBERTSON, Lieutenant, 2nd Bat. 7th Reg. N. I.
W. MILLS BLAKE, Ensign.
E. RULE, Ensign.
B. MEREDITH, Ensign, 1st Bat. 3rd Reg.
WILLIAM SHEPHERD, Ensign, 2nd Bat. 3rd Reg.
LIEUT. BERTRAM, 2nd Bat. of Pioneers.
W. S. ANDERSON, Assistant-Surgeon.

COPY OF ANSWER TO ADDRESS.

To Captains Syms and Lindsay, Lieutenants Read, Carey, Lane, S. Baby and A. Baby, H. M. 69th Reg.; Captains Lucas, Pepper, and Carfrae; Lieutenants Walker, Tagg, Gore, Goble, Inverarity, Dawson, Jeffery, and Robinson; Ensigns Blake, Rule, Meredith, and Shepherd, and Assistant-Surgeon Anderson, 3rd Regiment Native Infantry; and Captain-Lieutenant Bertram, of Pioneers.

GENTLEMEN,

I HAVE received, with emotions that I would not exchange for millions, your obliging favour, intimating your approbation of my conduct on the 10th instant; but, alas, I am really at a loss for words adequate to my feelings on this occasion. At the same time that I feel unconscious of deserving such a testimony, for merely persevering in doing my duty, yet I cannot deny myself the gratification you have so handsomely proposed: I shall accept with gratitude your proffered memorial (provided it be of trifling cost), and shall present it to my beloved wife, as the dearest trophy of my life. Believe me, Gentlemen, it will amply repay me for nearly nineteen years of toil in the service of my country; for some years of unparalleled misfortunes and distress, and for unmerited censure on a late occasion, which had embittered the last two years of my life. Allow me now, in conclusion (although you have anticipated me) to offer

you all and individually my warmest thanks, for your uncommon exertions and gallant support on that memorable occasion, and to request that you will make known to the brave fellows under your respective Commands, my admiration and unqualified approbation of their conduct, which I have already stated to my superiors.

Believe me, my dear Friends, to remain,

Yours most sincerely,

(Signed) J. WELSH.

Camp inside Arambooly Gate,

February 13, 1809.

G. O. G. 16th February, 1809.

THE Honorable the Governor in Council has the greatest satisfaction in publishing in General Orders, the following Extracts of Letters received from the Honorable Lieutenant-Colonel Sentleger, announcing the decisive and distinguished success which attended the Storm of the Lines of Travancore, by the Troops under the Command of that Officer.

Extract of a Letter from the Honorable Lieutenant-Colonel Sentleger to the Chief Secretary of the Government, dated 10th of February, 1809.

“ I had the honor this morning to convey to you by Express, a small Note in pencil, for the information

“ of the Honorable the Governor in Council, by which
 “ you were made acquainted with the satisfactory in-
 “ telligence of the British Flags being flying in every
 “ part of the Arambooly Lines, as well as the com-
 “ manding Redoubts to the north and south.

“ It is impossible for me to convey in language
 “ sufficiently strong, the obligations I feel under to
 “ the personal exertions of Major Welsh, commanding
 “ 3rd Regiment Native Infantry, and the Detachment
 “ for Escalade under his Command.

“ The Southern Redoubt, which presented a com-
 “ plete enfilade of the whole of the main lines as far
 “ as the gate, was the object of Major Welsh’s enter-
 “ prize; an enterprize which, from the natural strength
 “ of the approach, appeared only practicable to the
 “ exertions and determined bravery of British Troops,
 “ led on to glory by Major Welsh. It was ascended
 “ under cover of the night, and our Troops had actually
 “ escaladed the wall, ere their approach was sus-
 “ pected; and the ascent was of such great difficulty,
 “ as to require six hours of actual scrambling to reach
 “ the foot of the walls.

“ On consideration of the brilliancy of this achieve-
 “ ment, I feel a pleasurable duty in detailing, for the
 “ information of the Honorable the Governor in Coun-
 “ cil, a List of the Names of the Officers who accom-
 “ panied the Detachment for Escalade: it consisted of
 “ two Companies, and the Picquet of H. M. 69th Re-
 “ giment, commanded by Captain Syms; and the four

“ Flank, and five Battalion Companies, from the 3rd
 “ Regiment Native Infantry, under Captain Lucas:
 “ and it did not require that confirmation which Major
 “ Welsh has conveyed to me in the most handsome
 “ manner, to convince me, that to have accomplished
 “ such an object, every man must have done his duty.

“ In the list of gallant fellows which accompanies
 “ this Dispatch, I have to lament the fate of poor
 “ Capt. Cunningham, of H. M. 69th Regiment, whose
 “ wound I fear is mortal, which deprives his country
 “ of a brave and valuable Officer.

“ When Major Welsh had once effected his security
 “ in this commanding position, I dispatched to his
 “ assistance, by the same arduous route, a Company
 “ of H. M. 69th Regiment, and three Companies of the
 “ 1st Battalion 13th Regiment, under Capt. Hodgson,
 “ to reinforce, and give confidence to his party. As
 “ soon as this addition was perceived, a Detachment
 “ from his party stormed the main lines, and, by dint
 “ of persevering bravery, carried them entirely, and
 “ the Northern Redoubt was abandoned by the panic-
 “ struck enemy, who fled in all possible confusion in
 “ every direction, leaving me in possession of their
 “ strongest lines; and I am now encamped two miles
 “ interior of the Arambooly Gate.

“ I had ordered the remainder of the Detachment to
 “ be under arms at midnight, and marched to the most
 “ convenient position, either to secure Major Welsh's
 “ retreat, or furnish him support; and when day-light

“ permitted, Major Welsh had the satisfaction to see his friends at hand, ready to support him.

“ It would be injustice in me, not to express the active services I received from Lieutenant-Colonel M’Leod, of H. M. 69th Regiment; they were such as might be expected from an Officer of his reputation and experience, in bringing forward his Regiment in support of the attack, with the most willing zeal.

“ I feel it a duty I owe, from the report of Major Welsh, of the Pioneers who accompanied him, to express my entire approbation of their conduct, and that of Lieutenant Bertram, who commanded them.

“ In short, I feel highly satisfied with the conduct of the Officers and Men who composed the Detachment under my Command.

“ I am in possession of the arsenal, which appears well stored with arms and ammunition, and military stores, with a quantity of valuable ordnance on the works, which has not as yet been ascertained.

“ I have not been able to ascertain the loss of the enemy, but it must have been considerable.

“ *List of Officers composing the Detachment for Escalade*
“ *under Major Welsh.*

“ Captain Syms, of H. M. 69th Regiment; Captain Lindsay, Captain Cunningham, Lieutenant Carey, Lieutenant Reed, Lieutenant Lane, Lieutenant Baby, Lieutenant Baby, Captain Lucas, 3rd Regiment N. I.;

“ Captain Pepper, Captain Carfrae, Lieutenant Walker,
 “ Lieutenant Tagg, Lieutenant Dawson, Lieutenant
 “ Goble, Lieutenant Inverarity, Lieutenant Jeffrey,
 “ Lieutenant Rule, Lieutenant Shepherd, Lieutenant
 “ Blake, Lieutenant A. Bertram, Pioneers.”

Extract of a Letter from the Honorable Lieutenant-Colonel Sentleger to the Chief Secretary of the Government, dated the 11th February, 1809.

“ In the hurry of my Dispatch of yesterday, I
 “ omitted to state, for the information of the Honor-
 “ able the Governor in Council, the important services
 “ I had derived from Major Lampton’s ability and
 “ well-known professional skill; an omission I feel,
 “ and the more, as I am fully sensible of the service
 “ he rendered me.”

The Governor in Council considers the execution of the above service to reflect equal honor on the judgment with which it was planned, and on the signal zeal and bravery with which it was carried into effect. The Governor in Council accordingly conveys to the Honorable Lieutenant-Colonel Sentleger, the expression of his warmest approbation and thanks; and Lieutenant-Colonel Sentleger is requested to make known to the Officers and Troops under his Command, particularly to Major Welsh, who gallantly and ably conducted the party employed in the Assault, and to

the other Officers mentioned by Lieutenant-Colonel Sentleger, the sentiments of cordial approbation due to their meritorious conduct.

(COPY).

MY DEAR WELSH,

THE Colonel desires me to communicate to you, that in consequence of Dispatches this evening received, he is almost inclined to suspend your intended operations of this night; but on consideration of the confidence you express, and the preparations already taken, he is induced to permit you to put your plans in execution, under the positive restriction, that you act with the most perfect caution; that you run no risk of attempting what you may be unable to accomplish; and, above all, that you hazard nothing, where any thing like a defeat could be claimed.

You must be sensible of the confidence he has placed in you, and he feels assured that it is not misplaced.

Yours very truly,

CHARLES CUNNINGHAM.

$\frac{1}{2}$ 6 o'Clock.

This Note from the Private Secretary to Colonel Sentleger, I received as a *stimulus*, at the moment of marching for the Storm, and put it in my pocket, where it was found two days afterwards.—J. WELSH.