

icipation of that very useful and respectable body of men, now experiencing the hardships of imprisonment. It is said, that little more than two thousand pounds will effect this salutary purpose; a mere trifle, when compared to the wealth and benevolence for which this country is so eminently distinguished.

At Smyrna, from eighteen to twenty thousand children have lately died of the small pox; and its ravages are by no means at an end.

The greatest cordiality does not subsist between the Moors and Spaniards, notwithstanding the late protestations of friendship on both sides. The soldiers in garrison at Ceuta, are obliged to go in large parties abroad, to prevent being cut off by the natives.

MAY 10.

Extract of a letter from Calcutta, dated Nov. 22, 1790.

"Many material and important events have occurred since I wrote you by the Houghton. Nothing could be more rapid or more brilliant than the success of Meadows in the months of July and August. We, who had formerly had some experience of Tippoo, conceived either that he was ill at Seringapatnam, or that there was some serious desertion amongst his troops. The accounts that Meadows received were so contradictory, that he did not precisely know where Tippoo was. Meadows ventured to make considerable detachments from his main body in August. Stewart to Paticatcherry; Floyd to Sattimungulam, and Oldham to Evode. Early in September Tippoo began to move, but to this time he had not acted as one would expect from an officer of his reputation; for he permitted Meadows to possess himself of the whole Coimbatore province, a crop on the ground, and garrisons well supplied with provisions. Tippoo descended the Ghauts the 9th of September, and attacked Floyd on the 12th, who had most fortunately been joined by Oldham with his infantry a few days before. Floyd has acquired immortal honor as a soldier, and has literally saved the army from being destroyed in detail; for had Tippoo succeeded in cutting off Floyd, Meadows could not have collected his scattered detachments. Floyd, however, lost his baggage, and was compelled to abandon six of his guns, which Tippoo took, and has represented this affair with Floyd as a complete victory, in consequence of having taken them; but I do not hear that he has made the impression he expected from this favourable circumstance, either upon the Mahrattas or

the Nizam. Meadows marched to reinforce Floyd on the 14th September, and the junction was most happily effected on the 16th; but what has since passed, has been attended with very serious consequences. Meadows marched on the route that Floyd had retreated, in the hope of bringing Tippoo to a general engagement; but that wary commander had a more secure game to play, for he took a circuit, got in Meadows's rear, and secured part of the Coimbatore province, taking Evode at one extremity of it, and Waraporam at the other, with considerable quantities of provisions and ammunition in each. He intercepted a convoy from Trichinopoly, and advanced with such rapidity to the fort of Coimbatore, that it was only saved by the prompt determination of Colonel Hartley, who threw a powerful reinforcement into the place, just in time to preserve it. Meadows, in the mean time, continued an ineffectual pursuit, until his bullocks were knocked up, and his troops, though in the highest spirits, harrassed by repeated forced marches. On the 7th of October, Meadows encamped near the fort of Coimbatore, Tippoo ranging throughout the province at his pleasure. Sometimes we heard that he had re-ascended the Ghauts, but by the last account, which I fancy is authentic, he was still below them; and Meadows is said to have marched on the 25th of October, with the hope of bringing them to action near Settimungulam. The campaign in Coimbatore has been an unfortunate one. Those who reckoned securely upon Tippoo's former inactivity, would not believe it possible that he should have ventured below the Ghauts, but supposed he would have defended the passes, or allured us to march on to the Mysore before he appeared. However, by the rapidity of his motion, he has utterly disconcerted Meadows' plan, nor do I think it possible for us to move him from Coimbatore as long as he can find subsistence in it. This is the unfavorable side of the question, but on the other hand, Floyd's gallant stand, the carnage amongst Tippoo's troops in the two days engagement, the death of Lally, which is confidently asserted, and the loss of some of his bravest officers, must have impressed him with serious alarms. Added to this, the Mahrattas are advancing, though slowly, and have dismissed his Vackeel from their camp. Colonel Maxwell has entered the Mysore country from the Carnatic, at the head of a more respectable force than Coote commanded in the most critical moments of the late war. The Nizam is also in motion, and Abercrombie is arrived upon the Malabar coast from Bombay. I do not see how Tippoo is to

resist these various attacks. But the times are so critical, that Lord Cornwallis has determined, very wisely I think, to proceed to the scene of action. This will certainly give spirit to our allies, and accelerate their motions. He takes with him Frith's cavalry which is to be augmented to 6000 troopers, 1400 volunteer seapoys, under command of your gallant friend Tom Welch, who has Captain Hearsay for his second, and one thousand of the best bullocks that can be procured are to be sent by sea to Madras. Such has been the ridiculous, ill timed parsimony of government, that the bullocks we have are mere rats, and Biddulph, the contractor, is now in the Pumea province purchasing as many as he can of that large breed which were in our service in the last war, and which ought to have been kept up at any expence. We have them now to purchase and to train at the hour they are most wanted.

"I hope, before you receive this, that a large supply of bullion will be on its way to India, for your ministers must know that it is utterly impossible for us to support such a war with our own funds. Money is uncommonly scarce, the bonds are at fourteen per cent. discount; loans making at twelve per cent. to the utmost extent that we can borrow, and all payments, those necessary for war alone, postponed. Such is the change a few months has produced. In January our bonds bore a premium, and we had a revenue above two crores beyond our expenditure. I hope and believe that Lord Cornwallis's vigorous efforts will be crowned with success, but I hope also that your Ministers will be taught wisdom by experience. I know that Mr. Hastings in 1785, earnestly recommended it to the Company, not to keep up such enormous establishments at Madras and at Bombay, and advised rather that the Carnatic should be abandoned, than retained by draining Bengal of all its specie. But his advice was not followed, and after a peace of six years, with our noble revenue and large supplies, we were, when the war broke out, as poor in Bengal, as on the day the peace was signed. Every effort is making to enable Lord Cornwallis to carry with him a large supply of treasure. The Nabob Hyder Beg Khan, who had advanced for his master ten lacks to the Company, has promised twelve lacks more, and we are getting all we can in Calcutta, but our great hope is to receive effectual aid from England. The language is undoubtedly new, and would not have been endured in the late war from Mr. Hastings; but your English ministers, and they alone are responsible, and India is too great a stake to be sacrificed; and we cannot carry on a war expensive beyond all comparison with any former war, without material assistance from home. The enthusiasm of every man in Bengal is not to be expressed. The Nabob Vizir has upon this occasion, as indeed upon all others, behaved