himself in all manner of odd ways with everything worthy of notice which passed around him. No exhibition of a new discovery, no display of ingenuity or skill, however absurdly applied, failed to number him among its investigators, and he was not only quick in calculating and drawing inferences, but took special delight in both practices. He has often been heard to say that the power of rapid and correct calculation was his forte, and that if circumstances had not made him what he was, he would probably have become distinguished in public life as a financier.

Mr Wesley still lacked a month or two of completing his 21st year when he took his seat in the Irish House of Commons for the family borough of Trim. He was then a captain of cavalry and aide-de-camp to the Lord Lieutenant,*— a somewhat perilous position for a youth, who, with scarcely any other resources than his military pay, found himself thrown into the very vortex of a court famous for its gaiety and extravagance. It has been said that then for the first and only time in his long career, he became involved in pecuniary difficulties; and stories are told of his being helped out of them by tradesmen, one of whom, a draper, named Dillon, paid his bills. I must be permitted to doubt the truth of these stories, which are contradicted not only by the habits of well-ordered economy which distinguished him in after life, but by the whole tone and tenor of his conversation. I have repeatedly heard him discuss the subject of debt, which he denounced as discreditable in the extreme. His expression was, "It makes a slave of a man: I have often known what it was to be in want of money, but I never got helplessly into debt." It is not, therefore, very probable, had the Dublin stories been authentic, that the Duke with his tenacious memory could have forgotten them. It is impossible to conceive that one so rigidly adherent to truth in small

* The Duke's first and least scrupulous patron was the Earl of Westmoreland. He was Lord Lieutenant of Ireland when Arthur Wesley received his first commission, took the youth at once upon his staff, and heaped promotion upon him. Lord Westmoreland's court was remarkable for the low state of its morality, and the excess of its extravagance. That of Lord Camden, which came next, offered to it in both respects a striking contrast.

matters as well as in great, would, in this solitary instance, have stepped aside from it.

Of his career as an Irish senator no record has been preserved. He seems to have spoken but rarely, and never at any length. His votes were of course given in support of the party to which he belonged, but otherwise he entered very little into the business of the House. Neither can I discover any traces of intimate or frequent correspondence with members of his own family. One incident, and only one, in his personal history at this period, deserves to be noticed. He became attached to Lady Catherine Pakenham, third daughter of Michael, Earl of Longford, a young lady possessed of great personal charms, and a prodigious favourite at the vice-regal court. The means, however, to support a wife in the style to which the lady had been accustomed, were wanting, and Lord Longford objecting to the match, the young people separated, free indeed from all positive engagement, but with a tacit understanding that they would continue true to one another, and wait for better times.

Captain Wesley was thus circumstanced when the British Government determined to afford to Holland, against which the French armies were moving, the military support which England was bound by treaty, in such an emergency, to supply. Anxious to see real service, he wrote to his brother, Lord Mornington, begging him to make interest for a majority in a battalion which was about to be formed out of the flank companies of different regiments of guards. The application was refused, and Captain Wesley continued to act as aide-de-camp in Dublin, till promoted into the 33rd of the line, of which regiment he took command on the 30th of September, as lieutenant-colonel. From that day he devoted all the time which could be spared from his duties in Parliament, to improving the discipline of his battalion. He drew up for it a code of standing orders, which have been faithfully preserved ever since. He looked narrowly into its interior economy, which he rendered as perfect as the customs of the British army would then permit, and he had ere long the satisfaction to find that by every general officer who inspected it, the 33rd was pronounced to be the best drilled and

most efficient regiment within the limits of the Irish command.

So passed his time till towards the end of May, 1794, when the 33rd received orders to proceed to Cork, and embark for foreign service. Colonel Wesley resigned his seat in the Irish House of Commons, and put himself at the head of his regiment. A small force had already been collected for the purpose of making a descent upon the coast of Brittany; but the misfortunes which about this time overtook the allied armies in the Netherlands, led to a change of plan, and Lord Moira, to whom the command of the expeditionary corps had been entrusted, was directed to proceed with it to the assistance of the Duke of York. With the first division of that corps Colonel Wesley put to sea. He reached Ostend early in June, and Lord Moira arriving, a few days subsequently, with the main body of the troops, preparations were made to open the campaign.

With Lord Moira's successful march from Ostend to Malines I am not concerned. Colonel Wesley took no part in it. He was sent round by water with his own and other battalions to Antwerp:—upon which point not long afterwards the corps of the Duke of York and of the Prince of Orange fell back. Both had sustained reverses, the former at Oudenarde, the latter at Fleurus; and both were separated from the Austrian army by the issues of the action at Montagne de Fer, near Louvaine. A retreat in opposite directions was thereupon commenced. The Prince of Orange retired with his force towards the Rhine, while the Duke of York marched his own and the Dutch troops upon the Meuse, hoping from his position there to cover Holland. Never were grosser blunders committed, except by the French Committee of Public Safety, which interfered to prevent Generals Pichegru and Jourdan from taking advantage of the opportunity which these false movements presented. Had the Allies known how to make war, they would have concentrated after the affair of Fleurus near Brussels, and thence assumed the offensive. Had the councils of the French been more wisely directed, they would have fallen with all their force upon each retreating corps separately, and destroyed

both in detail. The French, however, after wasting two months in inaction, broke up into two corps, and pushed back the Allied generals into the positions which they were severally desirous of occupying.

It was the month of July; and in the lines covering Antwerp, Colonel Wesley for the first time found himself in the presence of an enemy. No event of importance occurred, however, till the September following, when the Anglo-Dutch army quitted its position, and took the road to Holland. On the 15th of the same month it was engaged in a serious affair with the right of the republican army. Anxious to interpose between the Allies and the Meuse, the French had on the previous evening seized the village of Boxtel, from which the Duke of York directed General Abercrombie, with two battalions of the guards, four of the line, a battery of artillery, and a couple of squadrons of horse, to dislodge them. The English, though they attacked with gallantry, sustained a repulse, and being closely pursued, would have probably been cut to pieces, had not Wesley, with exceeding promptitude, deployed his battalion and checked the pursuers. The village was not retaken, but his judicious move arrested the ardour of the enemy, and the English were enabled to continue their retreat in good order, and without heavy loss.

Colonel Wesley's judgment and coolness attracted that day the notice of General Dundas, who seized the earliest opportunity, after the Duke of York resigned the command, to mark his sense of the young soldier's merits. In January, 1795, he was placed at the head of a brigade, consisting of three weak battalions, and directed to cover the further retreat of the army. And a service of extreme difficulty, hardship, and suffering it proved to be. Driven from the Meuse across the Wahl, and from the Wahl across the Leck, the English, now separated from the Dutch, fought for existence, amid the depth of a winter unexampled in Europe for severity. The rivers which at other seasons might have interposed some obstacles to the enemy were all frozen over. There was no commissariat; the resources of the open country were exhausted: the more populous towns, imbued with

republican opinions, had become decidedly hostile ; and fortress after fortress opened its gates, the Dutch garrisons going over to the invaders. Still, whenever the day of battle came, the English did their duty ; and again, in an affair near Meterin, between the Wahl and the Leck, Colonel Wesley greatly distinguished himself. But the game was up. On the 2nd of December, 1794, the Duke of York gave over the command to the Hanoverian General, Count Walmoden, and before the end of the following January, Amsterdam, Daventer, Caervorden, Sneppen, and Emden, were one by one evacuated. Nothing now remained except to embark the wreck of the army as soon as the breaking up of the frost would allow. And this, without the necessity of submitting to the disgrace of a capitulation, was at length effected.

Short and disastrous as his first campaign had been, it proved of unspeakable advantage to Colonel Wesley. If he found nothing to admire in the general management of affairs, the countless blunders which day by day were committed conveyed to him lessons and warnings which he neither overlooked nor forgot. There was divided command without talent enough anywhere to lessen the inconveniences inseparable from it. There was total absence of forethought, of arrangement, of system. There were national jealousies and heartburnings innumerable. Sometimes one day, sometimes two, would elapse without a morsel of food being issued to the soldiers. The sick were left to recover or die, as the strength or weakness of their constitution might determine. Indeed the very wounded themselves received scarcely any attention. Shoes wore out, and were not replaced, though it was necessary to perform long marches amid melted snow and over frozen ground; and as to time, no man, high or low, seemed to take the smallest account of it. "You can't conceive such a state of things," the Duke used to say long years afterwards. "If we happened to be at dinner and the wine was going round, it was considered wrong to interrupt us. I have seen a packet handed in from the Austrian head quarters, and thrown aside unopened, with a remark, That will keep till to-morrow morning. It has always been a marvel to me how any one of us escaped."

CHAPTER II.

AT HOME—IN INDIA—FALL OF SERINGAPATAM.

Colonel Wesley landed at Harwich from the Low Countries in the early spring of 1795. He conducted his regiment to Warley in Essex, where an encampment had been formed, and leaving it there, proceeded on a short visit to Ireland. He seems to have laboured at this time under considerable depression of spirits, and for some reason or another had become disgusted with his profession. This we learn from a letter addressed by him to Lord Camden, in which he asks that nobleman, then at the head of the Irish Government, to find for him a situation either in the Board of Revenue or in the Treasury. But though he describes himself as acting on the occasion under the advice of Lord Mornington, the application met with no success. Some other candidate, probably supported by stronger political influence, obtained the prize; and Wesley was left to carve out for himself with his sword a name second to none in the military annals of his country.

Colonel Wesley had enjoyed but a few months' repose, when he was directed to join an expedition fitted out for the reduction of the French settlements in the West Indies. He embarked in Admiral Christian's fleet, which a succession of heavy gales dispersed in the Channel, the transports allotted to convey him and his regiment being driven back to Spithead. So ended that enterprise. The regiment disembarked again and proceeded to Poole. But there was a call for its services elsewhere, and in the course of a few

months it embarked for India. Colonel Wesley was suffering at the time under a sharp attack of illness which confined him to his chamber; he was unable therefore to accompany the regiment. But taking a passage in a fast-sailing frigate, he overtook the fleet still at anchor in Table Bay, and on the 17th of Feb., 1797, entered Fort William, at the head of his corps.

The condition of British India, in 1797, was different in every respect from British India in 1864. At the former of these periods its right to be spoken of as an empire had indeed been established, but it was an empire made up of detached fragments, the largest of which comprised a population of perhaps 30 millions, the smallest of not more than half a million at the most. There were then, as there are now, three Presidencies,—Bengal, Madras, and Bombay. Bengal included the fertile provinces of Bengal, Bahar, and Orissa. The authority of Madras was recognized over a comparatively insignificant portion of the Carnatic; while Bombay gave the law only to the town and harbour of that name, and to a narrow strip of land running along the shores of the adjacent continent. Interspersed among these Presidencies and to a great extent surrounding them, were many native states; Nepal, the country of the Seiks, the kingdom of Oude, the Mahratta principalities, including those of Holkar, Scindia, and the Peishwa; the Deccan, of which the Nizam was at the head; Bundelcund, Nagpore, Cuttack, Mysore, and Travancore. All these, originally portions of the great Mahometan Empire, or else, like the Mahrattas and the Seiks, tributaries to the Mogul, had in the course of the previous century and a half thrown off their allegiance, and, some without foreign aid, others with such assistance as the English and French factories could supply, succeeded in establishing their independence. During the progress of the wars which led to these results both English and French were constrained to assume a new attitude in the country. Instead of traders, they became soldiers, and fought first for existence, and by and by for empire. They invariably took opposite sides in the native quarrels, and in due time stood forward as principals instead of accessories. After a length-

ened struggle the balance of fortune turned in favour of the English. They defeated their rivals at all points, placed their own candidates on vacant thrones, obtained from each fresh accessions to their territory, and ended in becoming, if not the paramount, at all events a leading power in India. And all this in defiance of constant prohibitions from home and asseverations from abroad, continually repeated, that their single object was to conquer a peace which should prove at once honourable and lasting.

The amount of physical force employed to achieve these great ends cannot now be thought of except with astonishment. A few hundred Englishmen were all that applied their hands to lay the foundations of the Company's empire in the East; and very few thousands, not more than three or four at the most, brought the work to a completion. They did so indeed by communicating to natives their own discipline, and in part at least their own spirit—and these they found, under their own guidance, equal to every emergency. But not the less true is it, that to effect so large a purpose, qualities were needed, and called into existence, such as are rarely to be met with in any other than the Anglo-Saxon race. From the chief of a factory to the private soldier who stood sentry at his gate, every Englishman in India accepted it as a principle that great things were expected of him: and very few indeed, when the hour of difficulty arrived, disappointed the expectation. The consequence was that India became, what Mr Canning on a memorable occasion pronounced it to be, "a country fertile in heroes and statesmen." For every particular lad, whether he came as a writer or as a cadet, stepped at once on his arrival into a position more or less of responsibility, and knowing that he had only his own energies to depend upon, he brought them to bear at once, and either failed entirely or triumphed.

I am far from supposing that wherever Colonel Wellesley (for about this time the spelling of the name was changed) had been called upon to serve, he would have failed to earn the respect and confidence of all with whom he came in contact. He had already made a reputation for himself in the army as an excellent regimental officer, and needed only

a fair field to show that he was capable of higher things. But India, circumstanced as it then was, undoubtedly presented to him opportunities for which he might have vainly sought in any other part of the world. The best proof of this lies in the fact, that from the day of his arrival at Calcutta a change took place in the moral and intellectual nature of the man. The habits of quiet observation to which he had heretofore been addicted expanded at once into action. The experience of war and its requirements which he had accumulated in the Netherlands seemed to act upon him with the force of inspiration, and his correspondence, happily preserved, becomes in consequence instructive as well as interesting in the highest degree. He had not been two months in the country before he was consulted by the Government on everything connected with the equipment and administration of the army. He was chosen within three months to command a force which Sir John Shore proposed to employ in the reduction of Manilla; a charge which, with rare generosity, he refused to accept till satisfied that the feelings of a meritorious officer, senior to himself, had suffered no outrage. The enterprise came to nothing, because, while the troops were still on their way, the Governor-general changed his mind. But the pains which Colonel Wellesley took to provide all things necessary to ensure success, and the care which he bestowed upon the health and comfort of his men, showed that already he understood the importance of attending to matters of detail, the neglect of which, almost more than disasters in the field, renders armies inefficient. Nor was it only in his own department properly so called that he took at once and for ever the start of his contemporaries. The political relations of the Company with the surrounding states, the character of the people over whom their dominion was established, the position which the empire must assume in India, if it was to become permanent and prosperous,—all these demanded his attention, and he mastered them. His letters consequently exhibit a wonderful perception of the true state of things as they then existed, and a clear understanding of the dangers which threatened.

Nor was he content to study India from one point alone. He visited his old friend Lord Hobart, still Governor of Madras, though on the eve of making way for Lord Clive, and made himself master of the system which prevailed there, and of which he certainly does not speak in laudatory terms. The results of his experience in all these matters he communicated to Lord Mornington, on whom the office of Governor-general had been pressed, urging him at the same time not to reject the proffered dignity. This was in the month of March. In July he reverts to the subject, and says, "I am convinced that you will retain your health, nay, it is possible that its general state will be mended, and you will have the fairest opportunity of rendering material services to the public and of doing yourself credit." On the 17th day of May, 1797, the brothers had the happiness to meet and embrace in the Government house at Calcutta.

It would be an old story, often told before, were I in this place to tell how Lord Mornington found himself driven to reverse the policy on which his immediate predecessors had acted. A too manifest determination to keep at peace is attributed by Orientals to weakness. And economy in the management of national affairs leads, when carried beyond wise limits, to extravagance. British India, when Lord Mornington assumed the management of its policy, was in imminent danger both from without and from within. Within, the army had melted away for lack of recruitment; the arsenals were void and the treasury empty. Without, the native governments, stirred by the assurance of support from France, plotted the overthrow of a power which they detested and were beginning no longer to fear. Tippoo Sahib, the ruler of Mysore, was the ruling spirit in this combination. He had 50,000 good troops trained in European tactics, and officered by Frenchmen; and only waited the arrival of promised reinforcements from Mauritius in order to sweep down upon Madras and destroy it. Meanwhile his agents were busy in the Deccan, and urgent with the Mahrattas to make common cause with him; and even the sovereign of Oude and the far-off Seiks caught the infection. Lord

Mornington had not been many days in Calcutta ere the true nature of his position became apparent to him. He saw that he must choose between two evils. Either he must anticipate the designs of his enemies by attacking them in detail, or meet them as he best could when they were in a condition to fall upon him in a body.

Lord Mornington's voice, like that of Beelzebub in Milton's Satanic gathering, was for open war. Colonel Wellesley counselled peace; indeed, it is a remarkable trait in the character of that great soldier that peace, and the moral as well as political wisdom of maintaining it, was always present to his mind. But the power of maintaining peace depended, in his estimation, on a nation's ability to go to war at a moment's notice, and hence, while he restrained his brother from breaking prematurely with Mysore, he advised that preparations should be made to meet every contingency. Lord Mornington fell, though not without reluctance, into his brother's views. As it was on the side of Madras, however, that danger more immediately threatened, he determined to send Colonel Wellesley thither, which he was the more disposed to do, that in the civil and military rulers of that presidency neither he nor his brother reposed much confidence. Yet even this step was taken in such a way as to spare the self-love of those whom it was intended to control. No special office was conferred upon Colonel Wellesley, such as might entitle him to interfere authoritatively with the proceedings of the Government. On the contrary, he embarked with his regiment on the Hoogly, and went round to Madras, as any other officer might have done, in command of a corps which was intended to reinforce the army in that quarter.

Though he produced no commission entitling him to share in councils of state, Colonel Wellesley was naturally received both by Lord Clive and General Harris with the respect due to the brother of the Governor-general. He needed no more than this to accomplish all that the Governor-general expected from him. His sound judgment, clearly and modestly expressed, soon made itself felt on every question, and he became in a few days the moving spirit of the Go-

vernment in which he had no legal voice. But the Government, though assenting to his proposals, lacked vigour to enforce obedience to its own orders. He suggested that in Barahmal, a district conquered not long before from Hyder Ali, troops should be quietly assembled, and that a number of forts which lay on the line of march towards Seringapatam should be repaired, and put in a defensible state. Above all, he recommended that means should be provided for rendering the war, if it came, an aggressive one, by collecting bullocks and conveyances for an army; yet he continued at the same time to press upon his brother the wisdom of avoiding a rupture, if it were possible to do so. "Don't force Tippoo," he wrote, "into a corner; make as little as possible of the French declaration from Mauritius, and take no notice of the handful of people whom he has received from that quarter. When he finds the French alliance so little profitable to him, he will probably get tired of it, and of his own accord resume habits into which we could not force him, except at great trouble and expense." Indeed, so much in earnest was he in his desire to keep the empire out of war, that he consented to go in person to the Court of Tippoo and persuade him to lay aside his jealousies. Tippoo, fortunately perhaps for Colonel Wellesley, refused to admit an English ambassador into his presence, and thus placed beyond a doubt the hostility of his intentions.

So time passed. The English treasury was again full. Public credit revived, the army became once more efficient, and a plan of campaign, drawn up by Colonel Wellesley, was approved. It settled that the war when it came should be aggressive: it got rid, as a step preliminary to that issue, of the apprehended disaffection of the Nizam and of the Mahrattas. The former, freed from the presence of his French officers, renewed his treaty of alliance with the English; the latter, according to the customs of their nation, played fast and loose with both parties. It was at this juncture that by the death in a duel of a senior officer, Colonel Wellesley found himself appointed to the command of a division. He hurried off towards the Mysore frontier, to place himself at its head, and found, to his surprise and indignation, that the

preparations which had been ordered months before were not so much as begun. The men were there and the guns, but not a beast of burden was available; neither had any steps been taken to equip the forts which were to protect the communications of the army with its rear. Colonel Wellesley made no public complaint of this; he never did complain of events which were past remedy, but he set himself to make up, as far as circumstances would allow, for the negligence of which others had been guilty. In less than three weeks he equipped and stored the forts, laid up supplies of grain for his own and other divisions, and brought together 12,000 out of the 40,000 bullocks, which his original memorandum had specified as necessary to render the army moveable. Such exertions had never before been heard of on that side of India, and General Harris wrote of them to the Governor-general in terms of high commendation. But there the matter ended. Colonel Wellesley was apparently hurt at the slight thus put upon him. "The General," he says in a letter to his brother, "expressed his approbation of what I had done, and adopted as his own all the orders and regulations I had made, and then said that he should mention his approbation publicly, only that he was afraid others would be displeased and jealous. Now as there is nothing to be got in the army except credit, and as it is not always that the best intentions and endeavours to serve the public succeed, it is hard that when they do succeed they should not receive the approbation which it is acknowledged by all they deserve. I was much hurt about it at the time, but I don't care now, and shall certainly do everything to serve General Harris, and to support his name and authority."

From this resolution Colonel Wellesley never departed. He had advised his brother, and the Governor-general acted on the advice, to transfer the seat of the Supreme Government from Fort William to Fort St George, as soon as the occurrence of hostilities should become inevitable. He now opposed Lord Mornington's further wish to repair to the camp or march with the army. "Your presence in the camp," he says, "instead of giving confidence

to the General, would, in fact, deprive him of the command. If I were in General Harris's situation, and you were to join the army, I should quit it. In my opinion, he is at present awkwardly situated, and he will require all the powers which can be given him to keep in order the officers who will be in this army. Your presence will diminish his powers, at the same time that as it is impossible you can know anything of military matters, your presence will not answer this purpose." Nor did his loyalty to the officer under whom he served end there. He privately remonstrated against the assumed rights of the Military Board at Madras to dispense the patronage of the field force which General Harris commanded. "I told Lord Clive all this," he says, in a letter to Lord Mornington, "and particularly stated to him the necessity of giving the General credit, at least, for the appointments, if he did not allow him to make them. It is impossible to make him too respectable, or to place him too high, if he is to be the head of the army in the field. This want of respectability, which is to be attributed in a great measure to the General himself, is what I am most afraid of. However, I have lectured him well on the subject, and I have urged publicly to the army (in which I flatter myself I have some influence) the necessity of supporting him, whether he be right or wrong."

There was great propriety in this line of conduct, but it was generous as well as becoming. Ordinary men, circumstanced as Colonel Wellesley was, would have taken quite an opposite course. In proportion as the influence of the Commander-in-chief fell into the shade, his, as he well knew, would have become conspicuous; especially in the event of the arrival of the Governor-general in camp, when all real power would have passed into his hands. But such considerations never weighed with him, either then or afterwards. Of the authority set over him, be it what it might, he was only the servant, and he supported it, not because it was wise, or great, or powerful, but because it was his duty, as a subject of the Crown, to uphold the dignity of the Crown's representative. We shall see as we go on with his history that from this

principle of action no considerations of gain or credit to himself could ever tempt him to swerve.

The campaign against Tippoo and its results are matters of history. In the advance from Vellore to Seringapatam, Colonel Wellesley commanded the left column of the grand army, consisting of the 33rd regiment of foot, and 15,000 of the Nizam's troops. Other columns approached the devoted city from the Southern Carnatic and from Bombay. They united under the walls of the Mysorean capital on the 5th of April, 1799; though not till after a sharp affair at a place called Mallavelley, on the road. Tippoo marched out with the whole of his force, and fell there upon General Harris's army, which by a happy movement of Colonel Wellesley's column took the enemy in flank, and totally defeated him. And now the siege began, which, so far as the Duke's biographer is concerned, is memorable chiefly for this—that during one of the preliminary operations, Colonel Wellesley failed in a night attack on a tope or thicket in advance of the enemy's works; that the attack had been ordered in spite of a remonstrance on Wellesley's part, and without any previous examination of the ground; and that in General Harris's journal there is an entry to this effect, "Near twelve, Colonel Wellesley came to my tent in a good deal of agitation, to say he had not carried the tope." The view which Colonel Wellesley himself took of the affair is given in a letter to his brother: "On the night of the 5th, we made an attack on the enemy's outposts, which, at least on my side, was not quite so successful as could have been wished. The fact is, that the night was very dark, that the enemy expected us, and were strongly posted in an almost impenetrable jungle. We lost an officer killed, and nine men of the 33rd wounded, and at last, as I could not find out the post which it was desirable I should occupy, I was obliged to desist from the attack, the enemy also having retired from the post. In the morning they re-occupied it, and we attacked it again at day-light, and carried it with ease, and with little loss. I got a slight touch on the knee, from which I have felt no inconvenience, and I have come to

the determination never to suffer an attack to be made by night upon an enemy who was prepared and strongly posted, and whose posts had not been reconnoitred by daylight."

In the final assault and capture of the place, which occurred on the 4th of May, Colonel Wellesley appears not to have been actively engaged. He remained with his corps in observation, as the bulk of a besieging army under similar circumstances usually does. But he was soon called upon to perform a duty quite as arduous as the storming of a breach, and far more disagreeable. The troops who bore the brunt of the fray shook aside the restraints of discipline, and throughout the night of the 4th and during the whole of the succeeding day committed frightful atrocities. The town was set on fire in various places, and rapine and plunder prevailed. Colonel Wellesley was directed to carry his own regiment into the town and to restore order. "I came in," he wrote to his brother, "on the morning of the 6th, and in the course of the day I restored order among the troops." "Plunder is stopped," so he reported to General Harris on the 7th, "the fires are all extinguished, and the inhabitants are retiring to their homes fast. I am now employed in burying the dead, which I hope will be completed this day, particularly if you send me all the Pioneers."

Among the dead lay Tippoo himself. He had fallen, like a brave man, in the heat of the melée, and Colonel Wellesley, with equal nobleness and good policy, conferred upon him the rites of an honourable sepulture. The palace was, at the same time, saved from plunder; and even the pictures of Colonel Bailey's overthrow, which Tippoo had caused to be painted, were carefully preserved. Indeed, from the hour at which he succeeded in restraining the violence of his own people, Colonel Wellesley laboured to restore confidence to the natives. The former of these objects he did not attain without the exercise of a stern authority. Gallows were erected in seven streets, and seven marauders soon dangled from them. But the latter came of its own accord. The people saw that there was both the will and the power to protect them, and forthwith resumed their ordinary

occupations. General Harris learned from all this that he had given temporary authority to one who well understood how to exercise it, and without any solicitations from any quarter he confirmed Colonel Wellesley as commandant of Seringapatam. Once more, I believe, occasion has repeatedly been taken to throw censure, or what was intended for censure, on Colonel Wellesley. He is described as owing this lucrative appointment to the influence of the Governor-general, and as coming between more meritorious officers and the prize which they had richly earned. There is not a shadow of truth in either assertion. Colonel Wellesley was appointed, not only without interference on the part of Lord Mornington, but absolutely without his knowledge. "You know," wrote the Governor-general to General Harris, when the arrangement was communicated to him, "whether you would be doing me a favour if you employed him (Colonel Wellesley) in any way that would be detrimental to the public service. But the opinion, or rather the knowledge and experience, which I have of his observation, his judgment, and his character is such, that if you had not established him in Seringapatam, I should have done it by my own authority."

So much for the charge of influence unduly exercised; and next for the assumption that by placing Colonel Wellesley in command at Seringapatam, General Harris put him in the way of amassing a fortune. After he had enjoyed the distinction and emoluments of office rather more than a month, he thus describes his position, in a private letter to his brother:* "Since I went into the field, I have commanded an army with a large staff attached to me, which has not been unattended by a very great expense, especially latterly. About six weeks ago I was sent in here with a garrison, consisting of about half the army and a large staff, and I have not received one shilling more than I did in Fort St George. The consequence is, that I am ruined. I should be ashamed of doing any of the dirty things that I am told are done in some of the commands of the Carnatic; but if Government do not consider my situation here, I shall be ruined for ever."

* 14th Sept., 1799.