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(PRIVATE JOURNAL)

(OF THE)

(MARQUESS OF HASTINGS,)

K. G.

Governor-General and Commander-in-Chief in India.

EDITED BY HIS DAUGHTER,

THE MARCHIONESS OF BUTE.

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THE EARL OF MOIRA embarked at Portsmouth, on board H.M.S. *The Stirling Castle*, under command of Admiral Sir Home Popham, accompanied by the Countess of Loudoun and Moira, and his three eldest children, on the 14th of April; and landed at Madras on the 11th of September, 1813.

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SEPTEMBER 11th.—Made the land near Sadras at day-break. Ran along the coast, and anchored in Madras roads about twelve o'clock. The admiral, Sir Samuel Hood, and the staff-officers of the Presidency, came aboard to visit me. Soon after the admiral had retired, the Governor-General's flag (the union at the main topmast-head) was hoisted and was saluted by the admiral's ship and the other king's ships in the roads as well as by the fort. At five we left the ship, and landed amid a prodigious concourse of people. The first view was very striking. The notion of population conveyed by the immensity of the crowd, together with the novelty of the dresses and the tranquil demeanour of the individuals amid excessive pressure, marked to one's perception a state of society altogether different from what we had been accustomed to contemplate. The surf appeared insignificant, and the artifice of the native boatmen (who rowed us in a Massoulah boat) to make it be thought of consequence, was easily seen through. Without doubt it

He is a law man, who began as khidmutgar or footman to the Nawab, and waited behind his son's chair when the latter dined with me at Cawnpore. I did not express my wonder, only observing I could feel no right to interfere, unless the person contemplated by the Nawab were of known hostility to the British Government.

November 6th.—I went to shoot in the park of Dilkoosha, and brought home some partridges. On my return I was met by the painful news that Major-General Gillespie had been killed in an unsuccessful assault of the fortress of Kalunga. That he should have made so rash an attack is astonishing. The mischief which had occurred from inconsiderate attempts to storm places by no means calculated to be carried in that manner, had made me insert as an article in the instructions to each of the generals commanding divisions, a special prohibition against that species of attack upon any works which should be of a quality to require artillery for their reduction. When Colonel Mawby was to be detached against Kalunga, Major-General Gillespie was directed by me to enforce upon Colonel Mawby's mind a strict attention to the above injunction. I received from Major-General Gillespie an answer, saying that he had impressed strongly on Colonel Mawby the caution dictated by me. Colonel Mawby, in consequence, on reconnoitering the place forebore to assault it, and reported to Major-General Gillespie that he meant to establish batteries against it, as he conceived it was impracticable to carry it by storm. The Major-General on this quitted his own column, repaired to the camp before Kalunga, and on examining the fortress resolved to assault it. The result was the only one that could be rationally expected. The discredit to our arms, and the baneful influence which this reverse must have upon future operations, are light disadvantages in comparison to the loss of Major-General Gillespie. Whatsoever was the indiscretion of this last step it cannot detract from the credit due to the many important services achieved by his heroic valour. His zeal, his energy and his resources rendered him infinitely material for the conduct of operations in a country the features of which are so novel to officers unaccustomed to the plains of Hindostan.

Genius like his would soon have fashioned others to a just conception of the system to be pursued in mountain warfare; and, deprived of him, I fear they will have to poke out their way amid many errors and oversights before they attain such experience as may give them due confidence in themselves. In the afternoon the Nawab Vizeer sent three rhinoceroses for our inspection. Two were females of middle growth. The third was quite young. They appeared tame and gentle.

November 8th.—This day, to my great surprise, Major Baillie informed me that the Nawab Vizeer had determined to make Agha Meer peshcar, and that Roy Dya Crishen was to be dewan. Of course Agha Meer is to be the effective minister for the guidance of all affairs. I could only say that, on principles already professed by me, I could have nothing to do with the Nawab's choice. It is impossible to see this arrangement and not to discover that the elevation of Agha Meer is the reward of the influence exerted by him over the Nawab Vizeer to produce those recantations which I have detailed. It is not my business to develop this intrigue; if the power which Major Baillie possesses over the Vizeer's mind, aided by the co-operation of Agha Meer, be exerted beneficially for the furtherance of public affairs, I can have no call to make objections. The interest of the individuals who have been immediately sacrificed in this juggle can be attended to by me hereafter. I believed that some sort of intimidation is the practice used with the Vizeer. He does not seem deficient in intellect, but he appears weak in nerve. I had observed that the bridge over the Goomty, though a handsome structure originally, was in a sad state of decay; and I had expressed my surprise that the Nawab Vizeer did not repair it before the damage should be beyond remedy. I was told that his Excellency had a firm persuasion that his repairing the bridge, or his suffering any of his family or servants to do it, would infallibly occasion his Excellency's death within the year. The edifice, therefore, equally an ornament and a convenience to the city, will perish through this strange misapprehension.