

by negociation; and at length prevailed with Mauphus Cawn's people to give Madura<sup>a</sup> up to the company for the sum of 170,000 roupees: and it was accordingly delivered into his power just at the time the French fleet arrived. Having secured this requisition, with a large garrison of Sepoys, under the command of Ifouf Cawn, the Captain marched with the utmost expedition to Trichinopoly.

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1757.

This was all that could be done by the English company in this quarter. The delay their reinforcements met with in Europe, which seemed to act in concert with the late inactive ministry; and the considerable part of their forces sent to the relief of Bengal, had reduced their whole strength to 1618 men<sup>1</sup>: whereas the French had at this time very near 3500 European military; 1000 of which were sent from Europe this year. A superiority of strength, which increased their power, in proportion as it overawed the natives from assisting them, that were not in a condition to defend themselves, and increased the number and aid of their allies.

The weakness of the English forces.

The superiority of the French.

Affairs took a much better turn in the kingdom of Bengal. The destruction carried on with the utmost barbarity, which threatened a total loss of the commerce and settlements on the Ganges,

Remarks on the desperate state of Calcutta.

<sup>a</sup> Which had been obtained by treachery. See page 370. Vol. I.

<sup>1</sup> 1300 of the company's troops, 334 enlisted from Colonel Adlercron's regiment, ordered home; and 84 soldiers sent this year from Europe in the China ships.

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