

going with a very valuable cargo of military stores for Sir Edward Hughes, whose ammunition had been nearly exhausted in the well known conflict with Suffrein, he was taken and carried into Cuddalore, which was then in the possession of the French, where he found the crew of the Hannibal in the same captivity. He was permitted to be at large on his parole, and hoped shortly to be exchanged.

Hyder Ally having bribed Suffrein to surrender up to him all his prisoners at Cuddalore, Captain Wilson, as soon as he received the intelligence from the commander of the fort, determined that very night to attempt his escape from a confinement which was to him worse than death. This resolution he put in practice with his servant, a Bengalese boy.

About seven o'clock they ascended the rampart, the captain leaped down, and pitched on his feet; but the shock of so great a descent, about forty feet, occasioned his chin to strike against his knees, and tumbled him headlong into the river. Recovering himself, and returning to the foot of the wall, where there was a dry bank, he bid the boy drop down, and caught him safe in his arms!

All that part of the Tanjore country is low, and intersected with a number of rivers branching off from the great Coleroon. He inquired of the boy if he could swim, and found he could not; he therefore took him on his back and carried him safe over, and then made for Porto Nuovo, about four leagues and a half from Cuddalore. They had passed three arms of the river, and advanced at as great a pace