

plucking up a thistle
root; and all this for
to satisfy the caprice
ditti who are eager to
the spoils. Who is to
the ravages of the Mah-
er Tippoo shall be ex-
This is a question
quires at least a serious
a, which it seems not
we obtained, either in
in Britain.

of a letter from Ban-
Sept. 19. 1791.

will perceive by the
courier, that though
cisive has been done
capture of Bangalore,
Tippoo is now nearly
ed; the loss of that
ed him, and our getting
n of it may be looked
one of those fortunate
ances which decide the
n empire. I say for-
for we had no right to
; and, in all probabili-
oo would then have re-
to the lowest ebb. The
large oval, with thick
parts, and a very deep
ditch around, except
two extremities, where
-ways are. At each
re are five gate-ways,
in a large square pro-
with towers, ramparts,
ich was thought by
o be very strong; here
was discontinued. We
a long time breached
the curtains, but found

historical chronicle.

xix

that there was a deep ditch in
front, that would have probably
baffled our attempts to get in.
On learning that there was no
ditch at the gate-ways, the guns
were turned against them, and
very great destruction done in a
short time. It became however
necessary to take it or abandon
it immediately; there was not
above one day's ammunition re-
maining, and Tippoo had cut
embrazures through the bank
of a tank, that would have
flanked our batteries, and obli-
ged us to storm them next
morning, though protected by
the guns of the fort, which kept
up a tremendous, though ill di-
rected fire. The enemy had
expected a storm for two nights
before, and had been on the
watch; but being fatigued,
they were surprised on the
third. There were only two
possible ways to get in, both
of which might have been easi-
ly defended, the tops of the
two retaining walls of the
square inclosure that communi-
cated with the ramparts, upon
which we got up by the slope
occasioned by the destruction
of the walls.

The storming party, when
they ascended the gate-way,
contrary to what was intended,
gave a huzza, which convinced
the garrison that they were
near at hand, though they were
by no means in possession of
the place. The garrison was
immediately panic struck, and,

instead of doing any thing effec-
tual, they began firing all the
guns of the fort, in every di-
rection, to drown their fears.
There were near fifteen hun-
dred killed that night, and a-
bout fifty every night of the
siege.

Lord Cornwallis was ex-
ceedingly anxious all the time;
he knew, if we failed, that we
must have decamped, and left
every thing on the ground, as
most of the cattle were dead,
and the remainder so debilita-
ted as to be nearly useless.

I have given you this hasty
detail as the newspaper in In-
dia seldom contains any but the
most flattering accounts. The
particulars since Bangalore you
will find correct enough in the
courier. Our situation at Se-
ringapatam was also critical;
and, if the Mahrattas had not
very unexpectedly joined us
with great supplies, the army
would have been very much di-
stressed, we could always how-
ever have got back to Ban-
galore. Tippoo now is at the
lowest ebb;—no avenues, and
little territory not over-run by
the Mahrattas, and his troops
now obliged to desert him from
want. He is said to be an im-
petuous, self-conceited man,
very mistrustful of all around
him, and seldom inclined to
take advice; cruel to a degree
against his enemies, or those
who oppose his will, but a mil-
linary master to the bulk, *i. e.* th