

have stood firm to their duty, not a man has deserted him; and so faithful have his subjects been that our generals have been unable to obtain intelligence, even of the movements of the different parties belonging to ourselves. Our troops have been wandering like men in a mist, and have not known of the approach of either friends or foes, till they came within sight of each other; while Tippoo has had the best intelligence of all our movements on every occasion. It now appears that this ferocious monster, as we have been accustomed to call him, is a kind and affectionate son, and an indulgent master, that he has been busied during his whole reign in protecting the lower orders of his people from the ruinous gripe of grantees, and in promoting manufactures and agriculture in his dominions, in which he has succeeded in a manner unexampled in Europe, even not excepting the great Frederick himself. This will appear from the following private letter brought from India by the Swallow packet, written by an eye witness, and communicated by a friend. It gives, besides, a view of generalship *on our side*, that cannot fail to command the admiration of gentlemen in the army; yet this is the man whom every British subject, in idea, talks of exterminating with as much indifference as we would

talk of plucking up a thistle by the root; and all this for what? To satisfy the caprice of a banditti who are eager to share in the spoils. Who is to suppress the ravages of the Mah-rattas after Tippoo shall be extirpated? This is a question that requires at least a serious discussion, which it seems not yet to have obtained, either in India or in Britain.

*Extract of a letter from Bangalore, Sept. 19. 1791.*

"You will perceive by the Madras courier, that though little decisive has been done since the capture of Bangalore, yet that Tippoo is now nearly vanquished; the loss of that fort ruined him, and our getting possession of it may be looked upon as one of those fortunate circumstances which decide the fate of an empire. I say fortunate; for we had no right to expect it; and, in all probability, Tippoo would then have reduced us to the lowest ebb. The fort is a large oval, with thick high ramparts, and a very deep and dry ditch around, except at the two extremities, where the gate-ways are. At each end there are five gate-ways, inclosed in a large square projection, with towers, ramparts, &c. which was thought by Tippoo to be very strong; here the ditch was discontinued. We had for a long time breached one of the curtains, but found