

SHORT CHRONICLE

OF EVENTS.

February 20. 1772.

FOREIGN.

AFTER the public had waited with great impatience for news from India, by the arrival of the Swallow packet, that impatience has been in part abated, in a manner highly satisfactory to the minister. By this packet, which arrived three days before the meeting of parliament, the Madras courier, has been brought over as low down as October 15, by which, affairs in India are represented to be in a situation much more favourable for the British arms than we had any reason to expect; and such parts of L. Cornwallis's dispatches as have been made public concur in cherishing the same ideas, altho' we were formerly told, that in the hasty retreat from Seringapatam, and the still more hasty march of general Abercrombie, the British train of artillery, and baggage, were in both cases abandoned, and that the army had suffered very much from famine and fatigue; yet that still, as if it had raised battering cannon from heaven, they are

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ready to take the field, as soon as the dry season sets in, with the most assured prospect of success. We are told that Tippoo, who carried his whole army and baggage across the Cavary, in the face of the enemy, with scarcely any loss, is now reduced to the most deplorable distress; that he has neither resources of money nor of men; yet it has happened that scarcely one deserter has left him to join the enemy. How these accounts and facts are to be reconciled, time will discover.

We were told, before the war began, that Tippoo was one of the most cruel despots that ever ruled over a nation; that he was so much disliked by all his subjects, that he would be infallibly deserted by his whole people, as soon as any army should appear in the country, powerful enough to afford his subjects protection against his fury. We now know that all these assertions have been contradicted by the most undeniable facts. His troops

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