

pieces of cannon, and three mortars, but had not the effect of destroying the defences. Nevertheless they advanced their trenches, and erected a battery quite up to the breast of the glacis, consisting of 4 pieces of cannon, which they opened on the 31st; but after 2 or 3 hours, were obliged, by the superior fire of the fort, to close their emparzures again. The same thing happened for five days successively; after which they abandoned it entirely, and began to fire again from their first grand battery 450 yards distant. By the account of deserters, their loss of officers and men in their advanced battery was very considerable and they had several pieces of cannon disabled. After they were obliged to quit it, their fire continually decreased, from 23 pieces of cannon, which they had at one time, to only 6 pieces; however, they advanced their sap along the sea-side so far as to embrace entirely the N. E. angle of the covered way, from whence their musquetry obliged the besieged to retire: In this situation things remained for several days: The enemy endeavoured to open a passage into the ditch by a mine; but they sprung it so injudiciously (being open to the fire of several of the cannon from the Fort) that they could make no advantage of it. Major Caillaud having taken the command of the body of Seapoys, and country horse, with a few Europeans, collected from the garrisons of Tritchenology and Chingleput, commanded before by Captain Preston, was in the mean time of great service, by keeping at a few miles distance, and stopping the roads, which obliged the enemy four several times to march large detachments to oppose them, and cost them, on each of these occasions, several men. On the evening of the 16th of Feb. his Majesty's ship the Queenborough, commanded by Captain Kempenfelt, and the company's ship revenge, arrived with the detachment of Col. Draper's regiment, consisting of 600 men.