

Eyre Coote marched out and joined him with his division.¹ Clive then ordered the King's Grenadiers and a grenadier company of sepoy to lodge themselves behind a bank that was close upon the enemy's lines. From their entrenchment and from the wooded mound near their redoubt the foe kept up a smart fire of musketry, to which the detachment at the large tank, with four field-pieces, replied. Clive's object was to draw the enemy from their entrenchment a second time, and he was successful. Their infantry and cavalry poured forth from their lines, "but in attempting to bring out their cannon they were so galled by our artillery that they could not effect it, notwithstanding they made several attempts."² Regardless of the hot artillery fire, they advanced over the naked plain, and "by their motions made as if they intended to charge us, two or three large bodies being within one hundred and fifty yards." Clive, fearing that his small isolated post would be overwhelmed by numbers, twice or thrice ordered the remainder of his force in the grove to join him, "and that order as often countermanded on account of the movement of a large body of horse towards the Grove whom we had often fired upon to keep at a proper distance."³

For some time the enemy faced with no abatement of courage the brisk fire of the field-pieces. Men and horses fell rapidly. Among the slain were four of their principal commanders. Confusion now began to prevail in their ranks, and it was observed "that their elephants grew very unruly."⁴ Clive, with his usual decision and boldness in battle, took advantage of the critical moment. He ordered Eyre Coote to attack the mound and a party to storm the redoubt, "which we carried at the same instant with little or no loss; though the latter was defended (exclusively of blacks) by forty French and two pieces of cannon; and the former by a large body of blacks, both foot and horse."⁵ The redoubt was taken with little or no loss because the French had

¹ Eyre Coote's Journal.

² *Ibid.*: "This encouraged us to take possession of another advanced post within three hundred yards of the entrance of the enemy's camp."—Journal of Military Proceedings.

³ Journal of Military Proceedings.

⁴ Narrative of an Officer.

⁵ Letter to the Honble. George Pigot.