

the siege was in progress, Colonel Wellesley was appointed to command a night attack, having for its object the capture of an important outpost, crowned by a tope of trees. The enterprise failed, owing to the darkness of the night, and Colonel Wellesley, thrown down by a spent ball, nearly fell into the hands of the enemy, but by good fortune escaped, and carried the post next morning.

The siege was now pressed on with vigour, but Tippoo, with a resolution worthy of a better cause, made repeated sorties, and was only driven in after considerable loss.

On the evening of the 26th April, Colonel Wellesley dislodged the enemy from some intrenchments, behind the bank of a water-course, within 400 yards of the fort. The city was now closely invested, and it was decided to carry the place by storm, but as fast as breaches were made, they were filled up by gabions, and all other defects repaired. At length, on the 3rd of May, a practicable breach was effected, and on the morning of the 4th, the city was carried. Tippoo, determined to the last, was found by Colonel Wellesley under a heap of slain, retaining on his features an expression of stern and fearless calm.

Colonel Wellesley was appointed Commandant of Seringapatam, in which capacity he rendered the most important services to the Company, by establishing order and economy in the disorganized state. He was afterwards appointed to the command of Trincomalee, but soon accepted a subordinate command under General Baird, in the expedition to Egypt, which, however, an attack of fever prevented him from accompanying, and on his recovery, he returned to his Mysore government. From this he was called to take part in the Mahratta war, and the brilliant victory of Assaye, won against overwhelming numbers, was the death-blow to that long-dreaded power, and terminated the war at a blow.

In acknowledgement of his services in this campaign, Major-General Wellesley was created an extra Knight Companion of the Bath. Many addresses were presented to him by various public bodies in India, a splendid gold vase, valued at 2000 guineas, was given to him by the officers of his division of the Indian army, and a sword, worth £1000, was presented to him by the inhabitants of Calcutta. Sir Arthur embarked for England on the 10th of March.

On his arrival he was appointed to the command of the troops at Hastings; and on the death of the Marquis of Cornwallis, on the 5th of October, 1805, to the colonelcy of the 83rd. On the 8th of April, he was sworn of his Majesty's Privy Council; and on the 10th of April, 1806, he married Catherine, third daughter of the second Earl of Longford. He had previously, when only Captain Wellesley,

made proposals for the hand of this lady, and been refused, but his now brilliant position secured his second overtures a ready acceptance.

About the time he contracted this matrimonial alliance, he was returned to the House of Commons, then discussing the merits of his brother's Indian administration. The result, however, was a vote of the house, approving of the Marquis of Wellesley's government.

In 1807, Sir Arthur accepted, in the Portland administration, the situation of Chief Secretary for Ireland, under the Duke of Richmond.

The English government having determined to aid the patriot cause in the Peninsula, the command of the expedition was intrusted in the first instance to Sir Arthur, who went forward in a fast frigate, to ascertain the best points to commence operations, and immediately recognized the military capabilities of Portugal. He commenced landing his troops at the river Mondego on the 1st of August. Major General Spencer's division arrived three days afterwards; and the whole process of debarkation being completed, on the 5th, Sir Arthur found himself at the head of 13,000 men. After the brilliant affair of Torres Vedras, he was reinforced by Gen. Anstruther, and Sir Arthur now having a force amounting to 16,000 men and 18 pieces of cannon, gave the order to march on Lisbon. As Junot's army was in the gross only 18,000 men, and deducting garrisons only 14,000, there is no reason to doubt that this prompt step would have been attended with the most entire success. Unluckily, however, Sir Harry Burrard, by whom Sir Arthur had been superseded in the chief command, had reached Portugal, and he prohibited the scheme, expressing his determination to wait for Sir Hugh Dalrymple, to whom he was in turn to yield the direction of the British Army. Fortunately for the fame of Sir Arthur, Junot himself, who with Loison's corps had joined Laborde, commenced the attack at Vimiera before Sir Harry had landed. The strength of the two armies was nearly the same, and the defeat of the French, notwithstanding that not more than half the British force was engaged, was a most signal one. But, to the chagrin of all, Sir Harry Burrard arrived at the moment of victory, and in spite of Sir Arthur's representations ordered a halt. Sir Harry announced his intention to await the arrival of Sir Hugh Dalrymple before carrying out any further operations, and a delay of twenty-four hours intervened, when Sir Hugh, who assumed the chief command, made his appearance, and gave orders to advance. Junot, however, was already vanquished, though he knew how to make terms with the victors, and the disgraceful treaty of Cintra followed, to the infinite disgust of Sir Arthur and the army, and the disappointment of the nation.