

## CHAPTER XXXI.

**Colonel Arthur Wellesley appointed commandant of the fort—Establishment of order—Surrender of Kamruddin, Purnaiya and Fateh Haidar—People generally reconciled to the change.**

Special attention was now needed to re-establish order in the town. It was midnight before Major Allan, as has been already stated, could return to his tent from Tippu's palace on the memorable day of the storming of the fort. It was not an occasion, however, for him to take rest for any length of time. Early on the morning of the 5th May, Major Allan seated in his palanquin and accompanied by the Killedar and Syed Sahib's brother on horseback went into the fort and first visited the place where Syed Sahib had lain wounded the previous day. His body was not there but his brother finding one of his slippers picked it up and burying it in his bosom manifested immense grief. The party then went to Syed Sahib's house which they found plundered of every article of value and found also that the women and children had been roughly handled during the previous night. On receiving information that Syed Sahib's body was in a neighbouring house and on going there they found the corpse laid out and a fine boy of 8 years of age Syed Sahib's son and some other relations weeping over it. The corpse was taken and buried at Syed Sahib's house in a specially prepared grave. The family of Kamruddin was found in a miserable enclosure for sheltering cattle, his house having been burnt the preceding night.

Colonel Arthur Wellesley was on this day appointed to the command of Seringapatam and relieved General Baird of his charge. The first thing that Wellesley did after his assumption of charge was to send guards to the houses of the principal men of the town to secure safety for their families. Another task, though an unpleasant one, which he had to attend to was the disposal of a number of tigers chained in Tippu's palace. These beasts were found starving without anybody to attend to them and had consequently become violent. Meer Alum was asked if he would take care of them

and on his expressing inability to do so, these poor animals were shot. Next, Wellesley found that he could not hope to stop the plunder that continued in the town without executing some of the plunderers. Soldiers and sepoys were found crowding into the town at all hours and several of the officers also were no exceptions. The influx of these people increased the confusion that already prevailed in the town and added to the terror of the inhabitants. To give assurance to the people, cows or peace flags were hoisted in different parts of the town and public notice was given that severe example would be made of persons detected in the act of plundering houses or molesting the inhabitants. It was not however until four men were executed that perfect tranquillity was restored. Colonel Wellesley himself went to the houses of the principal officers and his visits soon inspired general confidence. In order to prevent depredations being committed on any large scale, a body of troops was stationed at a little distance from the fort. Consequent on the sudden and complete dissolution of Tippu's Government, the dispersion of all the public functionaries and the helpless situation of the Sultan's family, it also became necessary to appoint a civil officer for the performance of civil functions under the control of the commandant. The soldiers and sepoys of the regiments as well as officers except those on duty were prohibited for a time from indiscriminately entering the town and by their behaviour adding to the terror of the inhabitants.

The disposal of the dead was a huge task. Besides the Sultan, a considerable number of his chiefs and confidential officers had been slain and within forty-eight hours after the attack nearly 11,000 dead bodies floating in the moats or remaining concealed among the ruins were also buried, not to mention those left partially consumed by the conflagrations under the archway of the sally-port and other gates. Among the slain were included men, women and children of all ages.

Thus, to the terrified people of Seringapatam Wellesley proved himself a real protector and peace-giver. It was considered a jobbery on the part of General Harris to have appointed Colonel Wellesley to this important command, because he happened to be

the Governor-General's brother. Whatever the reason was for the appointment, the succeeding events justified the selection and the disorders incidental to a town captured by storm were vigorously suppressed, the fugitive inhabitants who had sought refuge in adjacent fields, woods and villages returned, and business and life began to flow into their usual channels to a large extent. It was a true observation that Colonel Wellesley made, though on a later occasion, that nothing except a battle lost was half so melancholy as a battle won.

We have already mentioned of the surrender of Abdul Khalik another son of Tippu on the 5th May and of his presence at the funeral of his father. On the 6th letters were sent to Fateh Haidar, Kamruddin and Purnaiya offering them protection if they would deliver themselves up and assist in settling the new government. On the 8th Kamruddin Khan who commanded 4,000 horse and whose father's sister was Tippu's mother sent Ali Raza Khan, one of the vakeels who negotiated the peace of 1792 with Marquis Cornwallis, with a message to General Harris that he considered that after the fall of Tippu the only honourable course left to him was to tender his submission unconditionally to the British. General Harris sent an answer with assurances of respect for his character and attention to his claims. On the 10th May Kamruddin came to Seringapatam from near French Rocks to pay a visit to General Harris. Captain Macleod was sent to meet him and when the latter reached the British camp, Colonel Close received him and conducted him to General Harris' tent. It was a mere formal visit and after the usual ceremonials and presents, the Khan took his leave. He then visited Meer Alum and was afterwards conducted to the fort, tents having been pitched by his desire for him in his garden.

On the 11th May Purnaiya sent a message to General Harris expressing his desire to pay his respects to the General and regretting that he had been prevented from doing so earlier by the rising of the river. On the 12th May Purnaiya paid his visit and General Harris had a long conversation with him regarding the settlement of the country. Purnaiya suggested that for the sake of

immediate peace the Silledars should be directed to go to their respective inam lands granted for their maintenance and to remain there until final arrangements were made, that their horses should be taken for the Sircar and the men be paid until otherwise provided for. Purnaiya also urged the dignity of the family of Tippu and the propriety of granting to the members decent allowances, not to speak of the creation of a fresh principality for one of his sons. General Harris and the other officers present were, it is said, much impressed with Purnaiya's personal character and by his general reputation for shrewdness and ability.

On the 13th May Fateh Haidar came to the north bank of the river from beyond French Rocks and halted there. The next day Captain Malcolm was sent to meet the prince and to conduct him to General Harris. The commander-in-chief received Fateh Haidar with every mark of attention but the latter was found to be much depressed and affected no doubt by the change in his fortunes. All the sirdars and chiefs of regular horse are stated to have shown great deference to this prince by their all seating themselves on the ground while Fateh Haidar was seated in a chair. The visit was a painful one to all present, and after some silence Amid Khan one of the sirdars rose up and in a loud voice addressed General Harris maintaining at the same time a perfectly respectful and dignified attitude. He said—"Behave in such a manner that your fame for justice may go as far as your fame for victory. The whole world acknowledges that the English are brave, show that you are equally generous." After dresses had been presented to Fateh Haidar and to the principal sirdars, the prince retired and was conducted by Captain Malcolm to a house in the fort prepared for his reception. A French force which was not more than 120, twenty of whom were officers who had remained with Fateh Haidar surrendered along with him.

Letters were sent to the Killedars of all forts calling on them to surrender their charges and most of them readily responded to the call and parties of troops were sent to take possession of such forts. The people in general far from showing any reluctance to offer their submission to the British officers, it is stated, voluntarily came

forward expressing joy for the termination of hostilities and for the establishment of peace in the country. The first fort which so surrendered was that of Maddur\* about 50 miles from Bangalore on the Mysore road. Major Allan who was at Maddur on the 20th May has recorded in his diary that the inhabitants furnished all that he and his troops required and that they seemed quite reconciled to the change that had taken place.

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\*An idea of the military stores generally contained in the forts may be obtained from what was found in this fort. This fort contained 373 guns, 60 mortars and 11 howitzars of brass, 466 guns, 12 mortars and 7 guns unfinished, of iron; in all 929 pieces of ordnance, of which 287 were mounted on the fortification. 4,24,400 rounds of shot, 5,20,000 pounds of powder, 99,000 muskets, carbines etc., of which 30,000 stand of French and 7,000 of the Company's arms. There were also powder magazines, 2 buildings for boring guns and muskets, 5 large arsenals, and 17 other buildings filled with swords, accoutrements, rockets and a variety of small stores.