

INDIA.

*From the Ceylon Government Gazette, July 12, 1803.*

The public mind has been in great anxiety ever since it was known that the Candians, on the 23d ult. had, without any notice, broken the truce which had hitherto been religiously observed on both sides, and surpris'd the outposts of Giriegamme and Gallegidere.

We have since received the dreadful intelligence of the massacre of the British troops which formed the garrison of Candy upon the 26th ult. after they had evacuated that fort, under a solemn capitulation that they should proceed with arms and ammunition, and without molestation, to Trincomalee; and also that the sick should be taken care of, and carried down to Colombo after their recovery.

The details of this horrible event have been related by several natives, eye witnesses of it, as also by a Corporal of the 19th, who was left for dead in the massacre, but who found means to escape in the night time to Fort Macdowall, where he gave the intelligence to Captain Madge, of the 19th regiment, commanding the Post, who having sustained a siege for three days, resolv'd very judiciously to bring off his garrison to Trincomalee, which he has effected, notwithstanding the constant fire of the Candians on his small force, until he fell in with a strong detachment of Malays, commanded by Lieut. Huskisson, escorting dooleys to Candy; when the Candians fled.

This, and many other proofs of the inability of the Candians to oppose the progress of any collected European or Malay force, however inconsiderable, render it difficult to account for the embarrassments which could induce the garrison of Candy to submit to any infraction of the capitulation which they had made, and to deliver up their arms to the orders of the Adigaar, which, it appears, they did; and that, on their return unarmed to Candy, the British soldiers were separated from the Malays, and all inhumanly butchered, with the exception of Major Davie, Captain Humphreys, of the Bengal Artillery, and Captain Rumley, of the Malay corps.

The following is a list of Officers who were at Candy when the last return was received:

Bengal Artillery.—Captain Humphreys.

His Majesty's 19th Regiment.—Lieutenant Blakeney, Lieut. Byne, Lieut. Plenderleash, Lieut. MacLaine, Ensign Smith, Quarter Master Brown, Assistant Surgeon Hopp.

51st Foot.—Lieut. Ormsby.

Malay Regiment.—Major Davie, Capt. Rumley, Lieutenant Mercer, Ensigns Barry, Gaupil, Fanthome, Garrison Surgeon Holloway.

Of these, it appears from the reports, that Lieutenants Blakeney and Plenderleash, were killed on the 23d, and that Ensign Gaupil and Quarter Master Brown had died previous to the massacre.

Captain Blackhall, of the 51st Regiment, with 50 Europeans and 50 Sepoys, was ordered to march from Colombo, to relieve the small garrison of Dambadenia, which had been attacked for ten days by a numerous body of Candians.

This service he performed with the loss of only one man, of the 51st, whose ardour to attack some Candians on the opposite side of the Kaymelle River made him attempt to swim across, when he was carried away by the stream and drowned.

An attempt was made to surprize the second Adigaar, by sending a party in the night to the place where he was stationed, but upon the approach of it, he escaped with all his people, and fled into the jungle. The huts and bugalos constructed for their accommodation, were burnt by our soldiers.