

CEYLON. The following extract from a private letter contains some additional particulars of the melancholy affair at Candy:—

The march of the British troops on the 2d of February, the capture of Candy, and the setting a new King upon the throne; the sickness of our troops in garrison, and the proposals repeatedly made on our part for an accommodation, we have given before.

“The troops in Candy and the neighbouring posts dying daily, and being much reduced by sickness, the Candians formed a plan to rise *en masse*, on a certain day, all over the island, and massacre the English troops. On the day appointed, about 12,000 of the natives surrounded Candy, and attacked the Palace, which was defended with the greatest obstinacy by the 19th and the Malays, who fought hand to hand for nearly two hours, and at one time they could not load their pieces, but merely used the bayonet. After a desperate struggle, they at last beat the Candians off with great slaughter, We lost about 12 or 14 killed and wounded, and two gallant young men, Lieutenants Blakeney and Plenderleigh, of the 19th. The surrender of Major Davie happened exactly as we have already stated.

“While our troops were on their way to Trincomalee, the Adigar, on the 26th, sent them a message, saying, the King positively insisted that they should march back to Candy and lay down their arms, and that Mootoo Swammy, the new king, should be given up to them. After some time Major Davie marched back towards Candy, and was met by the Adigar and the Dissavacs or Chiefs, and shewn where they should pile their arms, close to the town. When that was done, the Europeans were marched to some distance from their arms, which were immediately secured by the Candians. The Malay soldiers in our service were separated from the Europeans and marched another way. The Candians then took the new King, Mootoo Swammy, and put him to death on the spot. Major Davie and Captain Rumley, of the Malay regiments, and Captain Humphreys, of the Bengal Artillery, were separated from the rest of the Officers. The other Officers, eight in number, with all the men of the 19th, were then led away, tied two and two. The greater part were then brought into the jungle in this state, and, horrid to relate, beat against each other with clubs till they expired. The remainder by two and two, had their throats cut; one corporal of the 19th, as already stated, only escaping; he had his head and neck desperately cut, and was thrown among the heap of slain; but at night was able to creep into the wood, and make for the river, over which he swam, though very broad and rapid, and escaped to Fort Macdowal. In all, there were 198 Europeans of the 19th put to death, and nearly the whole of the Malays, who would not voluntarily enter into the King's service.

“Many of those who did so to save their lives, contrived afterwards to effect their escape. Major Davie, Captains Rumley and Humphreys, were kept prisoners for some days after the first massacre, and when the grand feast was made upon establishing the King again on the throne at Candy, these unfortunate men were dragged out in the presence of the King and all his Dissavacs, by command of the Adigar, and put to death in the most cruel and inhuman manner.

“Several valuable Malay Officers perished in their attempts to protect the Europeans. A very fine young man, not above 17, Ensign Barry, of the Malay corps, who was reserved from the slaughter, being sent for a few days after by the Adigar, to come before the King, finding his execution at hand, snatched a sword from one of the guards, and thrust it through his body.

“During the truce which was made between the General and the King in May, the Candian Dissavac of the four Corles, Leuke Ralehamie, suddenly collected a large body of Candians, and entered our territories at the village of Attagalla, endeavoured to force the Cingalese under our Government to join them, but they fled towards the coast, where a detachment of 25 of the 65th regiment, and as many of Ramsay's corps, and about 100 Lascarine soldiers, marched to attack them. After a short contest, the Candians fled beyond Ruanelli, leaving two of their guns and an image of Budha behind them.

“We are told that, in consequence of the inhabitants of a village, in the route of the British troops in Ceylon, supplying the latter very critically with a quantity of paddy, a party of Candian troops stationed in the vicinity, made a descent on the poor defenceless and unsuspecting offenders, and put them all to death.

“Notwithstanding the extreme difficulty of roads in the vicinity of Candy, the passes have been rendered still more difficult by the erection of a number of caravetys, or fortified gates, which can easily be defended by a very inferior force.”

The public curiosity having lately been excited by the transactions in Ceylon, it might not be uninteresting to our readers to be informed of the route and distances from Trincomalee to Candy, as communicate by a respectable Officer in the Company's service:—

From Trincomalee to Copputorey, 9 miles; from Copputorey to Turnbela Carunum, 6 miles; from Turnbela Carunum to Tertolay, 16; from Tertolay to Permaumadoo, 10; from Permaumadoo to Pulian Caravvety, 10; from Pulian Caravvety to Wishtegall, 20; from Wishtegall to Rock River, 5; from Rock River to Gona, 16; from Gona to Choultry Plain, 18; from Choultry Plain to Nallendy Caravvety, 5; from Nallendy Caravvety to Allwalay, 18; from Allwalay to Oospit, 18; from Oospit to Gunnoor, 17; from Gunnoor to Candy, 5.—In the whole, by this, 172 miles.

Recent accounts from the Resident at Oujein state, that a most extraordinary inundation had been experienced in the vicinity of that city, occasioned by the sudden swelling of the river, which, overflowing its banks, filled the streets and houses to such a depth as to render it necessary for the inhabitants, in the dead of night, to seek refuge from instant destruction, in boats; several cottages, and even whole villages in the neighbourhood, were swept away, together with large quantities of grain and some cattle. A number of people escaped to a Hindoo temple, on a hill on the Eastern side, where they were soon supplied with provisions and other necessaries. This calamity is supposed to have been occasioned by a shock of an earthquake in the upper districts.