

CEYLON, Oct. 19, 1803.

Intelligence having been received that the First Adigaar of Candy had assembled a very considerable force at Batooghedere, in the Saffergam Corle, with the intention of invading the British territories, Captain William Macpherson of his Majesty's 12th regiment, was detached from Columbo, with a party consisting of 50 Europeans and 120 natives, to disperse his army.

Captain W. Macpherson left Columbo on the morning of Thursday, 6th October, and after a fatiguing march through the Raygam Corle, passed the Candian frontier on the 9th. His march was afterwards opposed by the Candians, posted behind two batteries, who were, however, driven back without any loss on our side, and he arrived opposite to Batooghedere, on the Northern Bank of the Caloo Gunga, on the 12th inst. The fullness and rapidity of the stream rendered it impossible to pass over, and one private of the 51st, was unfortunately wounded by a shot from the opposite shore.

The Adigaar had, however, retreated with precipitation towards the province of Cova, and the army with him is supposed to have dispersed. Captain Macpherson therefore turned his march to the Northward, and proceeded through the Candian territory to Avisavalle, having executed (as far as circumstances would allow) the object of his expedition.

Captain Beaver having heard that Hambangtotte, was attacked by the Candians in great numbers, on the 29th ultimo, marched with the force under his command, from Catoone, in the Matura District, where he was stationed, to relieve that place.

He arrived at Hambangtotte on the 6th instant, but the blockade had already been raised by a spirited and judicious sortie of Ensign Pendergast, accompanied by Mr. W. Price, assistant surgeon of his Majesty's 12th regiment who was accidentally upon the spot.

This sortie drove the Candians to a considerable distance from the place, and they have now evacuated the province of the Mahagampattoo.

The numerous batteries constructed by them were burned by Ensign Pendergast, and nothing but the fatigue of the Malay invalids and the rapidity of the enemy's flight in every direction, prevented a considerable slaughter.

The terror of the Candians on this occasion, was augmented by a heavy fire kept up by the armed brig, Minerva, Captain John M. Nicol, which had been moored close in shore for the purpose of annoying the enemy.