

MEMOIRS

OF THE

WAR CARRIED ON IN SCOTLAND AND IRELAND.

M.DC.LXXXIX.—M.DC.XCI.

BY MAJOR GENERAL HUGH MACKAY,

COMMANDER IN CHIEF OF HIS MAJESTY'S FORCES.

WITH AN APPENDIX OF ORIGINAL PAPERS.

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Engraved by W^m Barraud

LIEUTENANT GENERAL HUGH MACKAY, OF SCOWRY,

*Commander in Chief of the Forces in Scotland, during 1680 & 1690.
Colonel Commandant of the Scotch Brigade in the Service of
Holland and a Privy Counsellor in Scotland.*

of them at Perth, and Sir Thomas Livingston the ensuing year in Strathspye, as we shall have occasion to touch hereafter.

All our officers and souldiers were strangers to the Highlanders way of fighting and embattailling, which mainly occasioned the consternation many of them were in; which, to remedy for the ensuing year, having taken notice on this occasion that the Highlanders are of such a quick motion, that if a battalion keep up his fire till they be near to make sure of them, they are upon it before our men can come to their second defence, which is the bayonet in the muffle of the musket. I say, the General having observed this method of the enemy, he invented the way to fasten the bayonet so to the muffle without, by two rings, that the souldiers may safely keep their fire till they pour it into their breasts, and then have no other motion to make but to push as with a pick.

The General having got up the hill with five battalions and a troop of horse, for Hastings and the other troops were not past as yet, and seeing Dundee master of an eminence so near him, resolved to make the best of that ground, and rather receive the check there in good order, than to put his men out of breath and in disorder, by attacking the enemy against an hill. Betwixt the height which he had marched up from the river, and the foot of that whereon the enemy were placed, there was a convenience to imbattail our men in one line, taking the former at our back, tho with a continued ascent from us to them.

The General having got upon the ground which he had remarked, he began to even his line, leaving a little distance betwixt every little battalion, having made two of each, because he was to fight three deep; only, in the midst of the line, he left a greater opening where he placed the two troops of horse (the other being come up just as he had taken his ground with Hastings battalion) of a design when the Highlanders approached, and that the fire of the line should be spent, to make them fall out by the larger intervall, to flank the enemy on either side, as occasion should offer, not daring to expose them to the enemy's horse, which was composed all of gentlemen, reformed officers, or such as had deserted of