

CHAP. XI. by way of Singarikôyil to the choultry at Tavalakuppam, which lies to the eastward, halted on the road. It is said that they tore down by handfuls a stack of straw which was there, and scattered it on the ground. They are at present at the same place. Nothing further is known about them.

\* from Surat who stated as follows: "They said to us: 'They might raise a report that they saw a letter mentioning that you had departed; you had better go quickly.' But on coming here, we do not find anything of the kind." They said that they had reached this in twenty-seven days.

At 9 in the morning, the Governor sent for the chief of the peons, was angry with him, and said: "How is it that you did not go." Thereupon the man reported the matter to Kanakarâya Mudali, who was at home, unwell. He sent for Krimâsi Pandit, who had been without employment for the last fifteen days, ordered him to perform his duty as before, and directed him to join the force which was at Tavalakuppam choultry. He and the chief of the peons accordingly departed.

Azhaga Pillai, accountant of the court, went to M. Duquesne, the commander of the force which was encamped at Tavalakuppam, and reported that the soldiers and Muhammadans of Mahé were plundering the bazaarmen and petty dealers who had

\* Perished in the original.

come there, and he begged the issue of instructions to put a stop to these outrages.

The following intelligence concerning Cuddalore and Fort St. David has been received. The authorities there, apprehending an attack from Pondichery, have reinforced the garrison of Fort St. David, and Cuddalore itself, with soldiers, and have stationed Carnatic sepoy in twenties and thirties on the roads round about the town bounds. The residents of Tiruppappuliyâr, Manjakuppam, and other villages within the bounds, who even in times of peace have dreaded an inroad by the French, are in a state of utter consternation at the idea of an actual attack. What will become of them if they learn that an army is really advancing upon them? . . . \* It is reported that they have sent their property to places of strength and security; that they are ready to send their families also thereto; and that their alarm is indescribable.

The English have captured the ships bound for Pondichery, and have received a reinforcement of men-of-war from England and other places. This accounts for their activity: nevertheless they are much troubled owing to their leader, the Governor, being a worthless fellow, and a man devoid of wisdom. Although Pondichery receives no ships, her Government lacks funds, the enemy has seized her vessels, she is feeble and wanting in strength,

\* Perished in the original.

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Pondichery contrasted with her enemies.

Fear universally entertained other attributed to M. Dupleix.

Panegyric of diarist on him.

and her inhabitants are in misery; although she has all these disadvantages, no sooner is mention made of her than the Nawábs, and other magnates in the interior, become alarmed. When her name is uttered, her enemies tremble, and dare not stir. All this is owing to the ability, readiness and luck of the present Governor, M. Dupleix. His method of doing things is not known to any one, because none else is possessed of the quick mind with which he is gifted. In patience he has no equal. He has peculiar skill in carrying out his plans and designs; in the management of affairs, and in governing; in fitting his advice to times and persons; in maintaining at all times an even countenance; in doing things through proper agents; in addressing them in appropriate terms; and in assuming a bearing at once dignified and courteous towards all . . . \*

Owing to these qualities, he has acquired such a reputation as to make all people say that he is the master, and that others are useless individuals. Because God has favoured him with unswerving resolution, and because he is governing Pondichery on an occasion when she is threatened with danger, her inhabitants are confident, and fearless; and are even able to defy the people of towns opposed to them. This is due solely to the skill and administrative ability of the Governor. If he did not

\* Perished in the original.

occupy this position, and if the danger had occurred in the times of his predecessors, the inhabitants of this city would be a hundred times more disturbed and terrified than the followers of the invader: such is the general opinion regarding M. Dupleix. Besides this, if his courage, character, bearing, greatness of mind, and skill in the battle field, were put to the test, he could be compared only with the Emperor Aurangzeb, and Louis XIV; and not with any other monarch. But how am I to paint all his high and praiseworthy characteristics? I have described him only so far as my simple mind allows me. People of better capacity could do this more completely than I.

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1746.

Compares him to Aurangzeb and Louis XIV.

*[Faint, mostly illegible text, likely bleed-through from the reverse side of the page.]*