

CHAP.  
XVIII.

1746.

Who  
advises him  
not to  
purchase  
them.They are  
accordingly  
returned.

fall in the value of pearls; that there would be a large importation of them within the next twenty days, when they were sure to become very cheap—so much so that a reduction in the price by about a half might be expected—and that consequently it was not desirable to purchase them now. He accordingly told his wife to return them, which she did.

The Governor then gave me the following information concerning the three ships of the Company captured by Commodore Baret on their way hither from China, and sold by him to the Dutch. It was that the King of France had required of the Dutch Company the restoration of the vessels in question, that the latter had yielded to this demand, and that the ships with their cargoes had consequently again become the property of the French Company. I expressed my delight at this news, and requested him to communicate to me any information that he could concerning the Manilla \* ship. He replied: "The royal standard of France does not fly at Manilla. The dominant flag there is that of a Muhammadan—a bigoted Muhammadan—and the point is not one on which the Company ought to move the King. Steps have been taken in other directions. But nobody knows the will of Heaven in the matter, and the predestined fortunes of us all."

Thereupon I observed: "It will be of no avail if the undertaking results only in the recovery by the

\* This refers apparently to the "vessel from Manilla" mentioned at pages 45 and 46.

Governor  
mentions  
settlement  
of diff-  
erence  
between  
French and  
Dutch.Conver-  
sation  
regarding  
the Manilla  
ship seized  
by English.

Company of what it has lost. The interests of many merchants in this town are involved, and you should be instrumental in the recovery of their money. Successful effort on your part in this direction will greatly redound to your credit, and will be a meritorious action."

The Governor replied: "It is all God's will. I am sure that He purposes that our efforts should be crowned with success." I rejoined: "The outcome of these will greatly contribute to your glory, and that of the Company."

He then made the following observations touching the prospects of the affairs of the English and Dutch Companies: "The English Company is bound to die out. It has long been in an impecunious condition, and what it had to its credit has been lent to the King, whose overthrow is certain. The loss of its capital is therefore inevitable, and this must lead to collapse. Mark my words. The truth of them will be brought home to you when you, ere long, find that my prophecy has been realized. In like manner; the Dutch Company is destined to share a similar fate. Its expenses continue to be enormous, whilst its trade has considerably decreased. The Dutch are, moreover, in great straits, now that the towns in the countries bordering on Holland have become possessions of the French, as have also the cities and the provinces on both the banks of the river which debouches into the sea in their country. This circumstance is particularly disagreeable to them,

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Diarrist  
urges him  
to take  
action  
regarding  
this.Remarks of  
Governor  
touching  
prospects  
of English  
and Dutch  
Companies.Predicts  
downfall of  
former.

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as the sea and the river form their chief means of communication. Further, the Dutch Company is robbed by the very people who are in its service, and consequently the latter enrich themselves at the cost of the Company, which becomes proportionately impoverished. The occupations of the Dutch are solely confined to trade and commerce, and their State owns no territorial possessions. These causes must conduce to the collapse before long of this Company also. About 200 towns belonging to the Dutch were captured last year by the King of France, who, however, influenced by certain motives, afterwards restored them. But having been disappointed in his expectations, he has again commenced military operations resulting in a serious loss of life and property. If princes hurry themselves into any act without due forethought, their undertakings must be attended by consequences affecting human lives and fortunes."

And of the  
atter.

Diarist  
concurs.

I concurred with the sentiments which he had expressed, and related certain anecdotes by way of illustration, the aptitude of which he admitted.

## CHAPTER XIX.

FROM JUNE 21ST, 1746, TO JULY 5TH, 1746.

Governor instructs diarist to send money to Alambarai—Intimates expected arrival of squadron of M. de la Bourdonnais—His elation at the news—Satisfaction of diarist—Money sent to Alambarai—Governor questions diarist as to payment of certain debts to Company—He replies—Governor takes him to-task for delay in supplying goods—His reply—Governor alludes to difficulties as regards funds for public charges—Evasive reply of diarist—Governor demands 1,000 pagodas—And suggests that another man should give Rs. 1,000—Conversation on the subject—Governor insists on payment—Reflections of diarist on his difficulties—Festival of Eve of St. John—Ceremonies observed—Saint's day of Madame Dupleix—Visits paid to her—Paddy sent for sale at Pondichery—Man in charge brings letter from the Nawab—Governor receives this from the bearer—Finds that it asks exemption of paddy from duty—Request refused—Diarist informed of critical condition of V. Venkataiyan—Suggestion made as regards means of relieving anxiety of invalid—He goes to Governor—Finds him dictating a letter—He desires diarist to prepare a draft, and instructs him as to heads—Chinna Mudali tells diarist of anger of Governor at his inability to draft from his instructions—Madananda Pandit requests Chinna Mudali to take a certain memorandum to Governor—Explains nature of case to which it relates, and how to be disposed of—All three go to Governor—Who, after hearing contents of the paper, passes orders—Diarist attends a marriage—Tirukkami Chetti and he intimate hopeless illness of V. Venkataiyan to Governor—Who directs that he be strictly guarded—Diarist visits the sick man—Conversation with medical attendant—Death of Venkataiyan—Diarist reports this to Governor, who asks what is to be done—Diarist relates the circumstances under which Venkataiyan was imprisoned, and what subsequently occurred—States that formal award should now be made—And Sunguvâr be held responsible for any defalcations found—Krimâsi Pandit deputed to communicate this—Those to whom the message delivered; object—Governor, on hearing this, decides that they must make good any loss—They submit—Further orders of Governor—Request that Madras gate may be kept open on for certain purpose complied with—Governor directs that Adiappa Chetti shall not leave Pondichery—Council meets—French spy at Madras aids escapes of prisoners—Detected and punished—Letter from M. Paradis to Governor regarding a debt due by agent of diarist—Governor upbraids him—Diarist explains—Governor orders him to write to M. Paradis—He does so—Receives certain letters informing him that his agent refuses