

CHAP.
XXI.

1746.

The
masters
examined
by the
Governor.

to Muttupéttai, Adirâmpattanam, and the neighbouring ports, were captured, and brought in by a boat. The native masters who commanded them were brought ashore, taken to the house of the Governor, and detained there until half-past 2 in the afternoon, when he summoned them, and instituted inquiries. From the statements made by them, and a perusal of the charter-parties and other documents in their possession, it appeared that the craft neither belonged to the English, nor hailed from Madras, and this was intimated to the Governor. Moreover, there was no commodity of much value in either of them; the goods in one amounting in value to less than 50 or 60 pagodas and those in the other 100 pagodas. Besides, there was a letter in French from Kâsilevvai Marakkâyan, the master of our ship at Âlambarai, advising that the cloths and other goods in one of them belonged to him, and this removed all doubts. The Governor then sent me to M. de la Bourdonnais to inform him as to the circumstances, and ask him to issue instructions for the release of the men. M. de la Bourdonnais, as soon as he had heard me, gave a written order to his officials directing that they should be set at liberty. This was delivered to the native masters, with permission to depart, which they accordingly did.

Diarist
sent
to M. de
la Bourdon-
nais to
request
their
release.This
ordered
by him.

I communicated what had occurred to the Governor. I then intimated to him that I had received a reply to my letter to the dubâsh of the Governor of Fort St. David inquiring whether his master was in

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Diarist
reports
reply of
chief
dubash of
Fort St.
David.

need of red wine. I explained that this stated that the Governor of Fort St. David had desired him to convey his compliments to the Governor of Pondichery and his family, and to say that they had enough for the time being, and that when their supply ran short they would ask by letter for more. The Governor expressed himself satisfied.

He then told me that a sum of money was due to him by the Company, and that in discharge thereof he proposed to take thirty or forty bales of English broad-cloth belonging to it, and 100 bales of inferior broad-cloth known as second sort, fine, which had been received by the recently arrived French ships, and he requested me to effect a sale of these. In response I said that I would. He next asked me how both of these stuffs sold. I replied that the latter, when last sold, brought about the same price as Mocha broad-cloth. He inquired the profit on it. I stated that a bale brought a return of 15 or 20 pagodas, and that as prices fluctuated, the goods might yield a profit of 30 pagodas, if retailed. He, however, expressed his intention to dispose of them by wholesale and not retail sale, and questioned me regarding the price of the English article. I answered that the cost price at Madras of each bale—consisting of six rolls—was 91 pagodas; at the rate of 45½ pagodas per three rolls, and that the selling price was either 108 or 112 pagodas. “Do not, because I take the articles, tell falsehoods,” he exclaimed. “Give me the actual selling price in the

Governor
informs
diarist of
intention
to take
goods in
payment of
a debt
due by the
Com-
pany.And asks
him to
effect
sale of
these.Conver-
sation as to
prices.