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Muttu Chetti and another inform diarist of intended sale of condemned stock.

And propose that they should jointly purchase it.

Reflections of diarist on being compelled by poverty to assent.

The account given by M. Mathieu of contents of letter from M. de la Bourdonnais to Governor.

Arrival of fleet at Negapatam.

Governor has ordered M. Cornet to dispose of broad-cloth to all persons applying for it, and to sell by auction such as may be damp, or injured by insects. To prevent the material passing into the hands of others, we will, in conjunction with Irusappa Muttu Chetti, take the whole lot, and not allow others access to M. Cornet." Being of opinion that I ought not to say much on this matter, I replied: "What you suggest is wise. To-morrow being inauspicious, on account of Chaturti, we will draw up the necessary agreement on Panchami which is the day after." But overwhelmed by the idea that on account of my impecunious circumstances, the rough-skinned toads were beginning to hunt, I thought of God, and felt vexed within myself that I should have been reduced to such a plight.

*Saturday, 20th August 1746, or 8th Avani of Akshaya.*—I went to the Governor's house at 8 this morning, and having saluted him, took my seat in the hall, when M. Mathieu, the Governor's [head accountant], called me, and asked whether I knew the contents of the letter from M. de la Bourdonnais received on the previous evening by the Governor. I desired him to inform me what these were. He, thereupon, said as follows:—

"M. de la Bourdonnais arrived with his fleet, and anchored at Negapatam. Immediately afterwards, the Governor of the town despatched his Councillors to confer with him. They accordingly boarded the

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Deputation of Councillors remonstrates regarding seizure of Dutch ships.

Threats of M. de la Bourdonnais regarding purchase of French ships from English.

Preparations for according him a state reception.

Governor proceeds to the beach.

French Admiral's ship, and proceeded to remonstrate with him on having seized, as they were passing Pondichery, a sloop and a three masted craft belonging to the Dutch which were coming from Surat. They said that they were not aware of having infringed any international law. M. de la Bourdonnais asked them how they came to purchase from the English, whom they knew to be at war with his nation, the Manilla ship, and another captured at Mergui from the French, and he threatened them with the seizure of every sea-going vessel belonging to them, wherever found. The Councillors returned in their boat to the shore, and communicated the result of the conference to the Governor. He immediately held a Council, and it was decided that the Deputy Governor, and the Councillors should go off to M. de la Bourdonnais' ship and invite him to land. It was next ordered that Negapatam should be profusely decorated; that the streets should be watered, and adorned with plantain trees, and that triumphal arches should be erected; that white cloths, to walk upon, should be spread on the ground, that the guns on the fortifications, and on the beach, should be loaded, and that a guard of honour should be formed of Europeans, merchants, officers, soldiers, East Indians, Carnatic sepoys, and others, dressed in their best. With this escort, and with flourishes of trumpets, drums, etc., the Governor proceeded to the beach, to await the arrival of M. de la Bourdonnais.

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The conciliatory measures taken to induce M. de la Bourdonnais to land.

And to refrain from carrying out his threats.

Landing in state and entertainment by the Governor

In the meantime, the Deputy Governor of Negapatam and the Councillors embarked in a boat, went on board the ship in which M. de la Bourdonnais was, and addressed him in these words: 'You are angry with us, because we purchased those two ships. We did not see any harm in the transaction, for it was a regular sale. We however were in fault in one point—in that we bought the ships, knowing that they were yours, and being aware also that there was war between you, and the English. We did not sufficiently recognize this at the time. We entreat you to overlook our fault. We undertake to pay you from our treasury, within fifteen days, the amount which you claim as the value of your ships. Forgive us now, and condescend to visit our town, and partake of the banquet prepared for you. We beg that you will issue orders that none of our ships, wherever they may be found, are to be molested by the French. Our Governor is burning with desire to see you, and is waiting for you on the beach. Deign to come.' In such terms as these, they entreated him to visit Negapatam. M. de la Bourdonnais, being thus importuned, was appeased, and having directed the ship's officers to maintain a strict watch during his absence, entered, with his retinue, a boat, and landed with great pomp. The guns on the fort walls, as well as those on the ships, then fired a salute. The Governor met M. de la Bourdonnais on the beach, and conducted him in state along the carpeted way to the fort. M. de

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Final settlement of French claims.

Departure of the fleet to meet the English.

la Bourdonnais was entertained at a grand banquet. The Governor executed to his guest a deed binding himself to pay the value of the ships within fifteen days, and obtained from him a general safe-conduct, to protect the Dutch shipping from molestation by the French. Whilst M. de la Bourdonnais was still at table, news was brought to him that five English men-of-war were in sight, to the southward. He hastily took his departure, and accompanied by the Governor and all his men, proceeded to the beach; where, after bidding farewell to his host, he stepped into the boat in which he had come ashore. The Governor watched its progress until it had conveyed M. de la Bourdonnais on board. He then left the beach, and returned to the fort. By 2 o'clock, M. de la Bourdonnais had reached his ship, and cleared for action.

From the time that the French Admiral started to come ashore, until about two Indian hours after he returned to his ship, the booming of the guns was incessant. The number of rounds fired was beyond calculation. These were the events of 5th Âvani [17th August].

At sunrise the next day, that is, Thursday, 6th Âvani [18th August], the fleet of M. de la Bourdonnais set sail. Before, however starting to attack the enemy, he sent a catamaran to convey a despatch to Pondichery, which arrived on the evening of Friday, 7th Âvani [19th August]."

Such was the information given me by M.