

CHAP
XXXI.

1746.
Nainiyappa
Mudali
hurries
packing,
and sends
tickets for
each bale.

Diarist
arranges
for the
insertion
of these.

Peons, with
letters to
Fort St.
David,
waylaid.

Give false
account of
themselves,
and are
seized.

Governor
questions
and
releases
them.

But, after
conversing
with his
wife, has
them re-
arrested.

have the bales made up as quickly as possible. He also sent me the following tickets for insertion in each bale: twelve, for blue long-cloth; six, for coarse long-cloth; ten, for unbleached long-cloth; and two, for the Pondichery coarse checked cloth, making the total number forwarded thirty. I caused the necessary tickets to be pushed into the twelve bales which were closed yesterday, and arranged for the remaining eighteen being put into those yet to be made up. I then returned to the areca-nut store.

Two peons from Madras, who were carrying some seven or eight sealed letters to the English at Fort St. David, were waylaid by the Company's peons at Âlankuppam. On being questioned as to their destination, they replied that they were on their way to Tanjore, and were the servants of Sambu Dâs. They were, however, seized, and taken before the Governor. From the superscription, in English, on the envelopes of the letters, he saw that they were addressed to Fort St. David, and having restored the papers to the men, he asked why they had lied. They replied that they had done so through fear. On this he said: "Very well; you may go," and ordered a peon and a native officer to take charge of them, and leave them beyond the boundaries of Pondichery. When conversing with his wife, the Governor mentioned this incident to her. It is not known what she advised, but he ordered that the two peons should be brought back, and after again taking the letters from them, directed

that they should be confined in the prison attached to the court-house. Nothing else worthy of note transpired.

The ships are being laden with provisions, such as rice, fowls, and sheep; and the goods for Mascareigne are also being put on board. The Governor is engaged with the embarkation of these, and with writing letters. The affairs of Madras also occupy his attention. I therefore remained at the areca-nut store-house until noon, thence proceeded to the cloth godown, where I enjoined on the men to hurry on with the work of baling, and I then proceeded home.

I arranged for the delivery, to M. Cornet, of the nine bales of blue long-cloth, consisting of thirty-six packages of twenty pieces each, made up yesterday, and intended for M. d'Espréménil. He duly took charge of them. On examining two of the pieces, he was struck with their fineness, and asked Râmaiyan whether he knew the cost of the stuff. He answered in the negative. It is not exactly known what more M. Cornet said, but it would appear that he desired Râmaiyan to ascertain the price at which it was sold. At the time, he was in the company of the undersized Chetti youth who wears short Vaishnava caste marks, and is employed under Tadi Arunâchalam, and Chinna Parasurâman. The former of these, it is alleged, stated to the other, for communication to M. Cornet, that he had in his possession, and could furnish, cloths of better dye. Chinna Parasurâman

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Shipment of
provisions
for the
squadron.

Governor
busied with
this and
writing
letters.

Diarist
causes
delivery
of certain
long-cloth
to M.
Cornet.

Who asks
Râmaiyan
what it
cost.

T. Arunâ-
chalam's
clerk
offers cloths
of better
dye.

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accordingly mentioned this to M. Cornet, who then asked him the price of them. He replied: "Twenty-seven pagodas." Then M. Cornet remarked: "They could not be so broad as these. The dye in them is good." But Chinna Parasurâman exclaimed: "If directed, I will send for the cloths at once." To this, M. Cornet replied that he did not want them then, and would examine them later on. In spite of this, Chinna Parasurâman reiterated his offer to send for a couple as samples, and submit them for his approval. M. Cornet, however, dismissed him, with the remark that he would see about them on the following day.

Presses
M. Cornet
to see
these, but
is unsuccess-
ful.

This
related to
diarist by
Laksh-
manan.

Etiquette
obligatory
in commer-
cial circles,
under
certain
circum-
stances.

Diarist
comments
on the
conduct of
the clerk.

All this was told to me, at 7 at night, at the cloth store-house, by Lakshmanan, the headman of the fort lascars, when I was engaged in writing this diary. I have, therefore, recorded the incident in full. The etiquette in commercial circles requires that if a merchant happens to go to another when the latter is bargaining with a buyer, and if the purchaser inquires of him the price of the article which is being negotiated for, he should make it appear as though he was ignorant of the actual value. If further pressed, a well-bred merchant would, under some pretext or other, evade giving a reply. This being the case Taḍi Arunâchalam's servant offered to supply cloths, although unasked by the European. His doing so was owing solely to pride and boldness engendered by embezzlement of the Company's money by Chinna

Parasurâman, as he had a share both in the dyeing of the cloths, and the profits realized by the sale of them. It is this that caused him lose his head. They are under the false impression that M. Dupleix is unaware of all their frauds, which is, however, not the case. Startling disclosures—in ignorance of which they walk with their noses in the air—will be brought against them. Oblivious of the saying, 'To soar too high, leads to one's fall,' they display their aggressiveness in other matters, also. The result remains to be seen.

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And
observes
that certain
merchants
are un-
aware that
M. Dupleix
knows of
their
frauds.

At noon to-day, the mail from Madras brought a letter from Kandâl Guruvappa Chetti, written on the 8th instant [21st October]. The contents of it are as follows:

Letter from
K. Guru-
vappa
Chetti.

"This is what took place on the evening of the 8th instant [21st October], at Madras. The English Governor, Mr. Morse, accompanied by his Councilors, appeared before M. de la Bourdonnais, and executed all the necessary deeds with regard to the ransom to be paid by them. Thereupon, M. de la Bourdonnais affixed his signature to the document conveying the fort to the English, and also attested the other deeds containing subsidiary stipulations. The papers were signed by both parties. When each took possession of its respective deeds, a salvo of twenty-one guns was fired, and a feeling of happiness prevailed amongst those present. When these documents were executed, M. d'Espréménil was not present, nor was he asked to be, as those

This gives
account of
execution
of the
documents
referring to
the ransom
of Madras.

And states
that
M. d'Espre-
ménil was
not present.