

CHAP.
XXXII.
1746.

sent soldier Minot, in company with Gôpâlakrishna Aiyan, to M. de la Touche, and then repaired to the areca-nut store-house, from which I went home, following the road around the fort wall.

The *Bourbon* arrives, and the *Neptune* is sighted.

The ship *Bourbon* anchored in the roads, and fired eleven guns, to announce her arrival. The salute was returned from the ramparts of the fort. It was reported that the *Neptune*, too, was approaching. M. de la Gatinais told me that she had on board 1,500 bales of cloth shipped from Madras, and that as they were, to some extent, in a damaged condition, owing to the recent storm, they would be brought ashore, and bleached at Pondichery. M. Dubois asked him how many bales there were in the ship. M. de la Gatinais replied that, including broad-cloth, there would be, in all, about 2,500.

What M. de la Gatinais said as to the cargo of the latter.

Capture of the Englishmen previously alluded to.

The English soldiers previously alluded to, together with two persons in a palanquin, were, when marching abreast of Kâttarambâkkam, captured, to-day, by the French soldiers posted at my choultry, and were compelled to accompany them to Pondichery. It is said that they all have been placed under a guard, in the room at the western gate. I have yet to obtain an exact account of the new comers.

English soldiers landed from the *Bourbon*.

Twenty-five English soldiers, also, were brought ashore from the *Bourbon*, and they are confined in the hospital.

What occurred when the Englishmen were captured.

It is said that when the English soldiers from Madras were captured by ours, they informed them that they had a passport from M. de la Bourdonnais,

but the French replied to them in very coarse * language.

At half-past 7 this evening, M. de la Gatinais was taken to the fort, and cast into a dungeon.

Wednesday, 26th October 1746, or 13th Arppisi of Akshaya.—A letter, written by Kanđâl Guruvappa Chetti, arrived from Madras, this morning. Its contents were . . . †

A Council was held this morning. The Governor sent for me, and said: "Mahfuz Khân, the son of Anwar-ud-dîn Khân, Nawâb of Arcot, is attempting to take possession of Madras. He has detailed a small detachment of cavalry, to occupy Mylapore and the surrounding country. His desire is to harass us, by preventing all ingress into Madras, and by permitting free egress from the town of all classes of persons, with their valuables. It is desirable that you should go to him." I replied that I had something to say, if he would hear me patiently. "Well; what is it?" he exclaimed. I then said: "Mahfuz Khân is impressed with the idea that we have carried away immense wealth from Madras, and it is obvious that he is making all this disturbance, in order to obtain for himself as much plunder as he can. If I should present myself before him now, it is likely that he may detain me until I accede to all his demands. He knows that I possess much influence with you,

CHAP.
XXXII.

1746.
M. de la
Gatinais
imprisoned.

Governor tells diarist that Mahfuz Khan is attempting to seize Madras.

And they harass the French.

And that he must go to him.

Objections to doing this made by diarist.

* The actual expression is unfit for reproduction.

† Blank in the original.

CHAP.
XXXII.
1746.

and that I am a man of very high standing in Pondichery. Supposing that he treats me as his prisoner, it will be a hard matter for me, and I shall be obliged to accept his terms. I will mention another point for your consideration. If you send representatives to treat with the Muhammadans, they will think that the slightest display of hostility on their part causes you alarm, and it will encourage them to bluster more and more, in the hope of extracting from you as much money as they can. Anyhow, it appears to me, at present, impolitic to treat with Mahfuz Khân. I say so in deference to your superior wisdom." The Governor replied: "What you urge is true. It is not desirable to depute an envoy. But at least, find for me a Brâhman, or other intelligent person, to send to Madras. When the question of administering affairs there comes up for consideration, it is likely that letters written in Persian will be received; and when the Muhammadans approach Madras, some one will have to be sent, in order to treat with them. Procure me, therefore, a proper person, to accompany your younger brother to Madras." "My brother," I said, "is not capable of acting with tact in the present difficulty. The man who is deputed should be competent to advise even the administrator of Madras. It does not signify whom you have with you, for even the most incapable man, so long as he is influenced by your superior skill and guidance, will be taken for an able person. But as Madras is not endowed

Governor admits these.

But urges him to find some one to go to Madras.

Diarist deprecates sending his brother.

with a Governor such as you, my opinion is that a very intelligent man should be sent there. You may do as you think most proper." "Who is there here that fulfills your description? Consider; and tell me," said the Governor. I replied: "I do not presume to know more than you." He rejoined: "I do not know any man equal in ability to your brother. Think this over carefully, and let me know." "So please you", said I, "my brother has been tormented by piles from the day of his return from Madras. He has never once set foot out of doors since his arrival here." "I comprehend," exclaimed the Governor; "find a clever man who can speak and write Persian, and who will be to my liking." We then conversed for two or three Indian hours, on the affairs of Arcot, the doings of M. de la Bourdonnais at Madras, and the way in which he had plundered that city. To give the conversation in detail, would fill at least twenty pages. I here refer to it briefly, inasmuch as I have, elsewhere, on various occasions, shown what the nature of it was. The Governor again told me to bear in mind what he had already said, and permitted me to retire from his presence. I had walked as far as the gate, when he came out of the Council chamber, and called me back. I approached him; and he then asked me in what terms the letters to the Nawâb, and his son Mahfuz Khân, should be written. I gave him the heads. Telling me that he would have them written in

CHAP.
XXXII.

1746.

And says that a very intelligent person should be deputed. Governor asks him to name such a man.

And on his evading reply, suggests his brother.

Diarist urges the illness of his relative.

Governor bids him find some one else.

Subsequent conversation.

Governor having permitted diarist to leave, recalls him.

And consults him as to the terms in which to write certain letters.

CHAP.
XXXII.
1746.

Governor
subse-
quently
reads the
drafts to
diarist.

Who
pronounces
them
to be excel-
lently
written.

M. Delarche
directed
to translate
them into
Persian

Governor
speaks to
diarist
regarding
Mahfuz
Khan.

At his
suggestion,
orders
certain
letters to be
written.

conformity with these, he returned to the meeting. The work of signing the letters for France, and putting them into envelopes was going on apace. I thereupon departed, and proceeded to the areca-nut store-house, whence I went home. It was then noon. At half-past 5 in the evening, the Governor summoned me, and read out the letters which he had prepared for the Nawâb, and Mahfuz Khân. "They are capitally written," I exclaimed; adding, at the same time, a few words more in praise of his composition. He informed me that he intended employing M. Delarche to translate them into Persian. I said that this was good. He ordered M. Delarche to be called. When he came, the Governor put into his hands the two letters addressed to Nâwab Anwar-ud-dîn Khân and Mahfuz Khân, which he had drafted in French, and desired him to translate them into Persian with the help of Madanânda Pandit. During the time that they were both engaged with this work, the Governor again called me to him, and spoke to me of the misdeeds of Mahfuz Khân, the son of the Nawâb of Arcot. In the course of our conversation, I expressed the opinion that it was expedient to write to Sampâti Rao and Husain Sâhib, enclosing copies of the letters addressed to the Nawâb and Mahfuz Khân. "Do so," said the Governor. I accordingly went out, and having called Madanânda Pandit, told him to draft letters to Sampâti Rao and Husain Sâhib, and to make copies of those written to

CHAP.
XXXII.
1746.

And talks
with him
of M. de la
Bourdon-
nais and
his brother.

Diarist
tells
M. Auger
the popular
opinion
as to the
cause of the
recent
storm.

And makes
his com-
ments.

Governor's
inquiry
regarding
M. de la
Bourdon-
nais' inter-
preter.

His egotis-
tical
remarks.

the Nawâb and Mahfuz Khân, for enclosure in the former. I set him to work, and was sitting outside, when I was again sent for by the Governor. I went to him, and he spoke to me of the doings of MM. de la Bourdonnais and de la Villebague; and of the storm, which he said was a visitation of the Almighty as a consequence of M. de la Bourdonnais' evil deeds. M. Auger now came. I said to him: "Have you heard what the people of the town say? It is very curious." "What is it?" asked he. I replied: "The popular opinion is that, because the kindly heart of M. Dupleix was made sore by the wickedness of M. de la Bourdonnais, God caused a storm to arise, and through it, pronounced judgment on that evil man. As surely as God, as we all know, has inflicted on the English the just punishment for their former misdeeds, so surely will He now certainly visit on M. de la Bourdonnais his sins. Just at present, God merely foreshadows what is in store for those who run counter to the wishes of M. Dupleix." The Governor afterwards ordered M. Auger to despatch a boat to Madras.

He next asked me whether M. de la Bourdonnais' interpreter had returned from Madras. I replied in the affirmative. "I shall," said the Governor, "presently work some wonders. Mark well. Have I not said that God will visit with His judgments those who have disobeyed me?" He continued for an hour, to talk to me, in this strain.

CHAP.
XXXII.1746.
Conversa-
tion
touching
Muttai-
yappan.The
Governor
speaks
angrily of
him.Diarist's
extravagan-
t compliments.The Govern-
or is
appeased.He gives
diarist
certain
orders.

He then inquired how Muttaiyappan was conducting himself. I said that he continued to deserve his favour. He asked what advantage Muttaiyappan had gained by cheating him. I replied that hardships and sufferings were the only portion that had fallen to his lot. The Governor then exclaimed: "Look you; he never came, although I told you, a thousand times, to write to him, and you did all that lay in your power to induce him to return? But now he comes on a very fine errand indeed!" I said: "How could his misfortunes allow him to appear, when they had taken full possession of him? It is only now that good fortune smiles on him." "How so?" asked the Governor. I replied: "Good fortune dawned on him at the moment when thoughts of him entered your mind. It was an augury of good, shadowed forth by Providence itself." I paid the Governor other like extravagant compliments. On this he said: "My regard for you compels me to forgive any of your connections for any evil done to me." "I, and the whole of my family, are your slaves," I exclaimed, very submissively, "it behoves you to protect us all." M. Dubois now arrived. The Governor directed me to send, forthwith, couriers with letters to Arcot, and to select some one to proceed to Madras. I returned home, and chose a man versed in the Persian language, to accompany my younger brother Tiruvêngadam to Madras.

The *Sumatra* sailed this evening, for Mascareigne, with the mail for France. Prior to her arrival here, she had captured an English ship, which was on its way from Bencoolen.

Thursday, 27th October 1746, or 14th Arppisi of Akshaya.—The following was the principal event of to-day. This morning, at about five or six Indian hours after sunrise, Turaiyâr Pachai Kandappaiyar, who had been leading the life of an ascetic on the Palni hills, was installed as the head of the matt * of Bâlaiyar, at Bommaiya pâlaiyam. Owing to the incapacity of Bâlaiyar, who died on the 11th of Vaigâsi [21st May] last, each subordinate Tambirân † was allowed to exercise uncontrolled powers, and in consequence of this, the institution was very badly managed. The conduct, efficiency, luck, and quality of the administration, of the man installed, this day, remain to be seen.

I intended being present at the ceremony, but could not attend, as I was then very busily engaged. I, however, forwarded, through Ârumuga Pandâram, two yards of red broad-cloth.

The Governor sent for me this morning, and inquired if, in accordance with his instructions, I had secured the services of some one acquainted with Persian. I replied in the affirmative. He then remarked: "The man whom you have found is

* *Vide* footnote at p. 32, Vol. II.

† According to Winslow, Tambirân means a quasi monk, bound to celibacy; in token of which he wears red garments, wears his hair tangled, is generally learned, and is qualified to perform the Siva-pûjah.

CHAP.
XXXII.1746.
Sumatra
sails for
Mascar-
eigne.Installation
of the
head of
a matt.Remarks
of diarist.Diarist
sends gift.Governor
asks him
if he has
secured a
man ac-
quainted
with
Persian.