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He reports
this to the
Governor,
and replies
to his
informants.

By order
of the
Governor,
diarist
issues
instructions
touching
certain
supplies.

Governor
reads to
him a
letter from
M. Paradis.

This
reports an
attack by
Mahfuz
Khan.

and Rāmabhadra Chetti, that the forces of Muḥamad 'Alī were marching in that direction, and that if soldiers were sent, as before, to surround the fort at Vazhudāvūr, his men would be alarmed. He asked me to report all this to the Governor. I did so, and having sent for Venkaṭāchala Aiyān, of Tonḍamānattam, told him what the Governor had said to me, and asked him to convey the whole of this to the Killedar of Vazhudāvūr and Pachaiyappa Mudali. Then, the Governor, after walking through the ranks of soldiers drawn up on the eastern side of the fort, went on to the ramparts, and said: "To-morrow, the detachment will start for Mortāṇḍi Chāvaḍi; please ask Parasurāman to send all the provisions and supplies necessary for it." He then departed, and as soon as I reached my areca-nut godown, I summoned Chinna Parasurāman, and directed him to despatch the food and other articles needful for the troops that were going to Ariyānkuppam and Mortāṇḍi Chāvaḍi. At 8, after he had returned home, the Governor sent for me, and said that he had received a letter from M. Paradis, which he read to me. The contents of it were: "On the night of Thursday, the 26th [8th], I left Madras with fifty soldiers and thirty sepoys, and reached Tiruppōrūr on the following morning, *i.e.*, Friday. I started thence, and had marched for an Indian hour, when the troops of His Highness the Nawāb Mahfuz Khān, consisting of 500 horse and 1,000 infantry, surrounded me. I then distributed the

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Which
he had
repulsed.

And that
he had
reached
Sadras.

Governor
comments
on the
rashness
of M.
Paradis.

And says
that he will
send him a
reinforce-
ment.

He orders
a letter to
be written
to H. Sahib.
This refers
to the
misdeeds of
Mahfuz
Khan.

thirty sepoys around the camp, and taking with me my fifty soldiers, I got out of my palanquin, mounted my horse, and when the Muḥammadans fled, pursued them for some distance. I then returned, to rejoin the men who were in the rear. The enemy again appeared, and were dealt with as before. In this way, moving backwards and forwards, I reached Sadras during the night." The Governor said: "As M. Paradis is a bold man, and as he is favoured by God, he escaped from his difficulties; had it been otherwise, it is not likely that he would have overcome so large a force as that which attacked him. It was a rash act on his part to be as adventurous as he was, knowing full well, as he did, his own weakness and the numerical superiority of enemies, fired, as they were, with a spirit of hatred and revenge." He then said he would send, on the following day, troops to the assistance of M. Paradis.

The Governor desired that a letter, addressed to Arcot, should be written to Ḥusain Sāhib, in the following words: "Mahfuz Khān, the son of Nawāb Anwar-ud-dīn Khān, has wrongfully made captive the envoys whom we sent to him for the purpose of making ourselves acquainted with his affairs. Though, with your approval, we took Madras, after a fight with the English, he has unjustly waged war against us. He has been maltreating our subjects, when on their way between Madras and Pondichery. We have long endured all this misdoing, and there is still no sign of its abating. On

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States that they have been endured in the hope of an amicable settlement.

the other hand, the help received at our hands by you and your family; and indeed by all your people, is beyond measure. Seeing that you express yourself with impartiality in this affair, we have long borne with the affronts of Mahfuz Khân, in the hope that an amicable settlement might be arrived at. But they seem to grow worse and worse. War and strife are on the increase, and have not diminished. Anwar-ud-dîn Khân, and his party, who are now at the head of the Subah, are new-comers, and are consequently but slightly acquainted with the manners of Europeans, with whom, however, you have long had intercourse; and you have reigned in this part of the country so long that you must be quite conversant with the manners and customs of our race, and of those of other European nations. We presumed that your knowledge of them would very much reduce the probabilities of war. But what is actually taking place, and the manner in which you behave, are both opposed to our anticipations. Unless, therefore, you release the three captive Europeans, and withdraw the mounted men infesting this neighbourhood, we will devastate your country, as far as Arcot. We can no longer forbear."

The Governor strictly enjoined that the letter should be couched in strong terms. I said: "So let it be."

He then called me aside, and said as follows: "You told me that Periya Aiyâ the son of Vêttavalam Pandâri, who was captured and converted by

An offers the alternative of compliance with certain demands, or war.

Governor speaks to diarist concerning one Periya Aiyâ.

the Muhammadans, had escaped from the fort in which they had detained him . . . * You said, also, that he had since gone southwards, where he collected a band of men, and having returned, seized his father and brother, and placed them in confinement; and that he was pillaging the whole district of Ginjee. You had better send for his people, and instigate them to attack the army of Muhammad 'Alî Khân, harass it, capture his horses, and destroy his followers. You must take proper steps to bring this about." I promised to do so, and took leave of him.

I have already stated what the Governor said concerning M. Paradis. I will now relate what I have heard from independent sources. A hundred soldiers, forty or fifty Coffres, and thirty Mahé sepoys, were marching, in advance, with Jemadar Shaikh Hasan. The soldiers and the sepoys, as also some of the Coffres, had each powder and ball sufficient for six charges. They had, also, some reserve ammunition. Protected in this way, the gains of many men, in the shape of goods, money, and cloths, acquired in Madras, were being brought to Pondichery. After it had passed through Tirup-pôrûr, the convoy was surrounded on all sides by Anwar Khân, and his force, which consisted of 1,000 horse, and 2,000 foot. After an engagement in which thirty or forty of the Muhammadan horsemen,

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Who is a marauder.

And suggests instigating him to attack M. Ali Khan.

The version received by diarist, of the fight reported by M. Paradis.

Alleged strength of attacking force and nature of the fighting.

* Torn in the original.

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Treasure,
etc.,
belonging to
M. Paradis
said to
have been
captured:And most
of other
plunder
reported to
have been
carried off.Value of
what M.
Paradis
lost.Reflections
of diarist
regarding
this.

a Mahé sepoy and a Coffre were wounded, the party, accompanied by M. Paradis, reached Sadras, having been much harassed by the way. It is said that boxes containing some treasure, valuable precious stones, and cloths of different kinds, the property of M. Paradis, which were being carried in rear of the force, by coolies, escorted by six or seven soldiers and six or seven Mahé sepoys, were carried off by some Moghul horsemen. It is further said that of the property of the sepoys and some others from Pondichery, which consisted of what they had actually pillaged, or had purchased from the plunderers and which was at a short distance behind the troops, all, with the exception of a small portion carried by the men who accompanied M. Paradis, was borne off by the Muhammadan cavalry, who beat and drove away the bearers. Some say that the loss sustained by M. Paradis would amount to 10,000 pagodas, and a few others aver that it would be more. The saying is: "Ill-gotten gains will disappear in some foolish way or other." The property went in the same way as that in which it was obtained. It is of no moment what the value of it was—10,000 or 20,000, or may be, only 100 pagodas. Imagine what toil and trouble the articles must have cost the owners, and what grief and anxiety must have been caused by the loss of them. Would not the flame which was created in their hearts accompany the property to whatever house it might go, and reduce to ashes even

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what had previously been acquired? Take the instance of the ship from Pondichery, which was seized on her way back from Manilla. How many lamented then? Is not that the flame that set Madras ablaze, and reduced it to its present condition? Now that a fire, a hundred thousand times more powerful, is seizing hold of Pondichery, I leave it to the wise to form an idea of what may happen to it.

It was in this state that M. Paradis reached Sadras, and encamped at Velli Iswaran Kôvil. Those who came with him told me that he did not regret so much the boxes and goods that he lost, as he did four sheets of glass half as high again as a man, of which he was also deprived. M. Paradis would not have escaped from the predicament in which he found himself on this occasion, had it not been that God is favouring the French with success.

At 9 this morning, a letter was addressed to Husain Şâhib on the lines dictated by the Governor, to whom it was read. Another was also written, for despatch to Vakîl Subbaiyan, in which the contents of the communication to Husain Şâhib were embodied. Subbaiyan was requested to explain matters to him clearly, and to procure, and promptly forward, a reply from him. He was also desired to look to the comfort of the French who were in captivity at Arcot. I entrusted the letters to certain servants, and sent them off.

In reply to the letters addressed to Killedars, communications have been received, to-day, from

What M.
Paradis was
said to
have most
regretted.His escape
attributed,
by diarist,
to Divine
favour.Governor's
letter to
H. Sahib
prepared.Instruc-
tions also
sent to V.
Subbaiyan.Replies to
circular
received
from certain
Killedars.