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1746.

and proceed to Cuddalore. The only delay is on account of the absence of the messenger sent to bring intelligence, whose return is awaited by the Governor.

Jar of filth
thrown into
a temple,
from
enclosure of
church of
St. Paul.

It was reported to-night, at 7, that an earthen jar, filled with filth, was thrown from within the grounds of the church of St. Paul, into the temple of Vêdapuri Îswaran. It very nearly fell on the head of Sankara Aiyar, who was at the shrine of the god Pillaiyâr, on his way round the temple, in the performance of religious duties. When the jar struck the ground, and broke to pieces, the stench emitted was unbearable. This matter was represented to me by ten men, including the following heads of castes, namely, Tillai Mudali, Peddu Chetti, Ârumugattân Mudali, and Ândanâyaga Pillai. On my reporting the matter to the Governor, he sent for MM. Le Maire and Desmarêts, and Tânapa Mudali, who all arrived, at half-past 9. He deputed them to inspect the place, in company with M. Paradis. Before they set out, Madame Duplex sent for M. Paradis, and M. Le Maire, and advised them. I cannot imagine what false report they will make at her instigation, and what action the Governor will take on it. Her nature is too well known. It remains to be seen how the Governor will acquit himself in the affair. I will write touching this, when I know the result.

Complaint
made to
the Govern-
or, through
diarist.

Certain
persons
deputed,
to hold
inquiry.

Interfer-
ence of
Mme.
Duplex.

Specula-
tions
of diarist,
as to the
result of
this

When MM. Paradis, Le Maire, and Desmarêts, accompanied by Tânapa Mudali, approached the temple, Malaikkozhandan's son, Varlâm, who was

standing there, in company with some Pariah lads, told them, in French, to enter the temple. M. Le Maire, who heard this, reproved him, and asked him why he had come, and what business he had there. Varlâm said that he would go away, and accordingly departed. The gentlemen then entered the temple, smelt the broken jar, pronounced that it had contained filth, and judging by the position of the scattered fragments, arrived at the decision that it must have been thrown from the church, and that there could be no mistake on that point. M. Paradis proposed that this should be reported to the Governor, on which M. Le Maire suggested that the priests should be consulted. In reply, M. Paradis said that he had no authority to do this, but M. Le Maire averred that he had. All of them then went to the church, and rang the bell, by pulling the cord to which it is attached. On hearing the sound, the senior priest, Father Cœurdoux, came out, and opening the door, asked the business that had brought them there. They then explained what had taken place. They remarked that, from the position of the pieces of the broken jar, and an examination of the ground about the temple and church, there could be no doubt that the direction from which the jar came was that of the latter. They also noticed that the stones at the base of the temple wall on the side of the church had all been pulled down. When those holding the investigation urged that this was not right, the priest exclaimed: "It was

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Impertin-
ence
of one
Varlam.

Committee
decides
that the
jar was
thrown
from the
church.

It is sug-
gested to
consult
the priests.

The senior
of these
told of the
conclusion
arrived at.

The com-
mittee
notices
damage
done to
the temple
wall.

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The priest
imputes
this to the
temple
authorities,
themselves.

Reply of
the com-
mittee.

The report
made by it

What the
Governor
said, on
hearing
this.

Diarist
wishes
M. Barne-
val a happy
new year.

His reply.

Remark
thereon
of diarist.

not our doing. They, themselves, must have dug them out, with the view of lodging a complaint, and getting the wall, which is in a ruinous state, restored." They replied: "Everybody is aware of your intrigues. The perpetration of acts such as these, gives cause for much discord and wrangling."

The persons deputed to hold the enquiry then repaired to the Governor, and reported to him that the complaint made was true, and that the priests of the church of St. Paul were responsible. Thereupon, he desired them to commit this to paper, and exclaimed: "I will not only write to France regarding this affair, but will also take such action with respect to it, that the priests of the church of St. Paul will ever remember it." They talked for about two Indian hours on the doings, in the town, of the priests and then dispersed; the Governor going to bed. Tânappa Mudali and I returned home, at 11 o'clock.

Sunday, 1st January 1747, or 21st Mârgazhi of Akshaya.—This being New Year's day, I went to visit M. Barneval. He said to me: "You wish me a happy new year, a happy festival day, and much prosperity; but, owing to the capture of Madras, I have lost everything." I replied to him: "Sir, what does it signify to merchants whether Madras, or any other city, be taken?" He said that the intention of the Governor, M Dupleix, was to make Pondichery a city like Madras, but that that would never come to pass, because at Madras each

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M. Barne-
val refers to
the outrage
on the
temple.

Diarist
turns the
conversa-
tion.

Is sur-
moned by
the
Governor.

Who tells
him that
the
expedition
to Cudda-
lore has
returned.

He replies
that he had
just heard
of this.

Conversa-
tion regard-
ing the spy
sent to
Cuddalore.

merchant was an influential gentleman, equal in rank to our Governor. He added that, last night, some filth had been thrown into the Hindu temple, and that justice would be done to the merchants only if the culprits—be they missionaries, or others—were detected, and adequately punished. I thought it wise not to talk any further on this subject, and turned the conversation to the news from Europe, and various other topics; and after having paid my respects to his wife, also, I was about to depart, when a man came, and said that the Governor wanted me.

As soon as I presented myself before him, he said to me: "You know that, last night, we despatched 100 soldiers and Mahé sepoys to Cuddalore, with M. de la Tour and Shaikh Hasan. I have received a letter stating that they set out from Vîrâmpattanam last night, at half-past 7; that three of the boats leaked, thus wetting the powder and muskets; and that the party then landed, abandoned the expedition, and reached Ariyânkuppam, by 10." I replied that I had just received similar intelligence. He asked me whether the man who went to Cuddalore had returned. I replied that he had not. He then said: "You know that he promised to be here by yesterday afternoon; as he has not yet arrived, could he have been captured?" I answered: "I do not know; there is no news whatever" On this he seemed to be considering something or other.

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Diarist
wishes the
Governor
a happy
new year.

And makes
a flattering
speech.

To which
the Govern-
nor replies.

Diarist con-
tinues his
flatteries.

Intentions
of the
Governor
as regards
the priests.

Remarks of
diarist on
hearing
them.

I exclaimed: "Sir, may this be a happy new year; a happy festival for you! Last year you met with success everywhere; you earned, all through the country, a reputation which has extended even as far as Delhi. Through you, the whole of your family has gained a great name. The rumour is that should even such a warrior as the Emperor is, go to war with you, he would only be defeated. I trust that during this year you may have a hundred fold more success than in the past. God will, indeed, bring this about." He said to me: "You see, Ranggappa, how He favours me. At the very mention of my name, the Muhammadans begin to tremble." On this, I set to work to compliment him still more, and told him, for an Indian hour, how people were extolling his fame and valour. If I were to put into writing all that I said in commendation of him, it would occupy ten or fifteen pages. After I had flattered him in these very extravagant terms, he told me that, with the view of making the people of the church of St. Paul smart for the wrong that they had done, he would consult with the members of the Council, and take measures accordingly. I said to him: "Sir, if you do not take the necessary action to punish the evil done, the good name which you have acquired will be tarnished. Besides, you have invited all the merchants of Madras to Pondichery, and have a mind to make it a rich city, like Madras. If you take steps such as those you mention, you will obtain help in the direction at which you aim, and the

merchants will have confidence in you. Is there anything that escapes you? I only say what occurs to me." He replied: "What you say is correct: the people of the church of St. Paul are mischievous. Seeing that they have done so many things to annoy me, can there be any doubt they will do much more to irritate others? I know it full well. I shall take measures to make them regret their conduct, for ever, and also to do justice to other people." All this conversation took place this afternoon. I record it here, with our conversation in the morning.

We then went to the church, and every token of respect was, as usual, shown to us. But whenever I visited the priests, it was customary with them to embrace me, praise me, and show me all manner of respect. Attentions of this description were, however, not shown to me on this occasion, the reason being that they thought it was I who had brought the matter of the filth being thrown into the Vêdapuri Îswaran temple, on the previous night, to the notice of the Governor, and had caused him to send the Councilors, to inquire regarding it. It seemed to me that this was what led them to fail in their usual kindness to me. But it was not I who specially brought this deed to the Governor's knowledge. He took notice of it, only on the complaint made to him by the heads of castes, and I merely interpreted to him. I did not make the charge, myself. But if the priests thought so, how could I help it. Besides, the Governor is not in the habit of acting

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What the
Governor
says
touching
the priests.

Diarist
and he
visit the
church.

Priests
behave
coldly to
the former.

The reason
for this.

Diarist's
comments.

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Governor
pays new
year's
visits.Diarist
reports the
return of
the spy.Governor
directs that
he be
brought, in
the evening.He asks
the news
from
Cuddalore.Diarist re-
ports its
defenceless
condition.And that
the capture
of it would
be easy.Remarks
of the
Governor.

on other people's opinions, and this was known to every body. If, being aware of this, the priests bear me malice, what can I do? We next went to the mission church, and from there I let Tānappa Mudali go home, and returned to my house.

The Governor went to wish a happy new year to the Europeans; and, when he left the house of M. de la Touche, I presented myself before him, and said that I had brought the man who had arrived with news from Cuddalore. He asked me why he did not return on the previous day. I replied: "When disturbances are going on, it is not a very easy task to enter an enemy's town, and gather intelligence. He had to remain hidden; now in one place, now in another, and get information, and this took a day." "It is well," he observed: "it is enough that he did not fall into the enemy's hands; please bring him to me, to-night." When, in accordance with this order, I waited on him again, he said: "What news has he from Cuddalore." I replied: "Sir, the information which we had some time ago, regarding Cuddalore, was not incorrect. We were told that the peons and Malrājā had been transferred from there, to Manjakuppam, and that the guns in the batteries at Cuddalore, as also those on the bank of the river, had been spiked. This man now makes a similar report, and says that if you go there, you can easily take possession of the town." He replied: "Well; this is the news of the day before yesterday; it may be that of yesterday morning. Last night,

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He directs
that further
information
be obtained.And then
asks the
news of the
Muhamma-
dans.The reply
made by
diarist.News
that troops
are being
collected to
attack
Pondi-
chery.Diarist
incites
Periya Aiyā
to harry
the Muham-
madans.

our men from Ariyānkuppam started, in boats, from Virāmpattanam, and as two or three boats leaked, they turned back. It is just possible that the people at Cuddalore, having heard of this, may have placed soldiers and guns in ambush. What do you say to this? Send your men to procure information regarding the matter." I directed the man to go again. He said that he would, the day after tomorrow, bring news, and departed. The Governor then asked me if any news had been received regarding the forces of Muḥammad 'Alī Khān and Maḥfuz Khān, and the watch kept by them during the hours of darkness. I told him that the entire camp remained awake all night, and that the horses, with saddles *

Wednesday, 4th January 1747, or 24th Mārgazhi of Akshaya.—At 8 this morning, just before I went to the Governor, I heard the following news: The local Muhammadan commander, named *, together with Shaikh Hasan, and 'Abd-ul Raḥmān, two brothers who are Jemadars of the Mahé sepoys, had an interview with Gōvinda Rao, through Kâsikānsu Sing, and they are jointly collecting troops, and preparing to attack Pondichery. Some ten days ago, at the bidding of the Governor, I sent word to Periya Aiyā, son of the Poligar of Vettavalam, as follows: "You must raid and burn in the Muhammadan country, and attack and destroy their troops: we

* Blank in the original.