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XLIII.

1747.
Diarist
learns that
Mme.
Dupleix
has made
certain
inquiries.

said : " It is true : I, also, know it. I will put every thing straight in four or five days' time."

Madame Dupleix, so I heard, with a view to discredit me, sent for Chiana Mudali, and asked him whether Mahfuz Khân and Muhammad 'Alî had departed, or not. He thereupon sent a man, named Vîravukkalaiyan, to the camp, to ask Sivanâga Reddi whether they had gone, and on his return, reported that, in reply to his inquiry, Sivanâga keddi had told him that Mahfuz Khân and Muhammad 'Alî Khân had not started, but were there still. Chinna Mudali communicated this to Madame, and she went to the Governor, and said, " Rangappan makes false reports to you, and cheats and plunders you. The Muhammadans, so I hear, have not yet gone. Although this is the case, Rangappan tells you that they have." It was in consequence of this, that the Governor had the conversation with me as above related. Madanânda Pandit, who is engaged as a Munshi to write Persian letters, is active in bearing tales against me, partly to Madame, and partly to Chinna Mudali.

Sunday, 26th February 1747, or 18th Mâsi of Akshaya.—The following occurred on this date :

It will be remembered that, some time ago, it was agreed that the flag of the Nawâb should be kept flying over Fort St. George, for eight days. Six horsemen and ten peons, carrying with them a banner, came this morning to Pondichery from the camp, in view to proceed to Madras, and

Diarist sets
the conver-
sation with
him,
previously
noted, down
to this
cause.

Banner of
the Nawab,
brought to
Pondichery,
in view to
its being
hoisted at
Fort St.
George.

give effect to this arrangement. The Governor directed that they should halt without the town walls, and that supplies should be sent for their use. They accordingly abide outside.

This morning, the Governor gave me a gold French medal, in a little less size than a half dollar, and set with small brilliants, which was intended for bestowal on Muhammad Tavakkal *alias* Salik Dâûd Khân; and directed me to have it suspended from a double chain of gold. He said : " To-morrow morning, all the Europeans will come here. I intend then to present this, in public, to Salik Dâûd Khân." I promised that I would have it ready by that time. He then ordered me to invite people of every class, to attend his levée. I answered that I had already done so. He said : " You had better give them one hundred mohurs, and tell them to present the same to me, as if they were doing so voluntarily." I replied that I would, and retired. I then issued instructions to proclaim, by beat of tom-tom, that the streets should be decorated, adorned with flags, and illuminated at night with bon-fires and lamps. I also sent messengers to summon people, of all conditions, to attend the morning levée of the Governor.

It having, by the grace of God, fallen to my lot to conduct the affairs of the Company, I have spent my days and nights in thought, and have counselled the Governor on all manner of subjects, with the result that he has acted on my advice. By the decree

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The bearers
ordered to
halt outside
the town.

Governor
hands
diarist a
medal for
M. Tavak-
kal.

And directs
the issue of
invitations
to witness
the present-
ation of it.

Diarist
gives in-
structions
as to deco-
rating the
town, &c.

He records
reflections,
with regard
to himself.

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Refers to
the defeat
of Mahfuz
Khan.Indulges in
much self-
commendation
regarding
the negotia-
tions arising
from
this.And claims
for himself
an unrival-
led reputa-
tion.He then
quotes what
he fancies
others say
of him.What he
imagines
the
Nizam did
on receiving
reports con-
cerning
him.

of the Ruler of all sentient beings, the actual head of this kingdom attacked us, and was defeated. He voluntarily sued for peace, and coming to the Governor, begged him to arrange it. This was to the glory of the French. A treaty was afterwards effected. I was with the Governor when the Muhammadan envoy made his request; but he was obliged to agree to receive even less than one-tenth of the amount for which he asked. The Muhammadans carried away their presents. When the delegate treated with the Governor for terms, my exertions in the matter, my conduct of the business, and the skill and dexterity which I displayed in the negotiations, all became known to the Governor, and the public. He received presents which added to his glory. No one has acquired the reputation that I have; and my fame is in the mouths of ambassadors at courts, Governors of provinces, men of rank, and all people living within 300 leagues of this; from Delhi in the north, to Malayâlam in the south; and from the eastern to the western sea. They all say: "We have never seen, or heard of, a man equal to Ânanda Rangappan in diplomatic skill, in keenness of intellect, or in boldness of conception; or, in fact, in any other qualification whatsoever." All this was communicated to the Nizâm, at great length, through the medium of reports from the public news writers, and confidential correspondents in Arcot; and he not only ordered those of the former of these who were attached to

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his Court, to place it on record, but directed them to send innumerable reports to Delhi, Satâra, Bengal, Benares, and other places. The Governors, Amîrs, Viziers, Amaldârs, Subhadars, Sowcars, and all the people of those countries, read these, and, with unbounded astonishment, exclaimed, as follows:

"We have never before seen such skill displayed, and have never even heard of the like. In every country there are some who are fitted for war, and others for carrying on negotiations for peace. When two parties are at variance with one another, the weaker sends a mediator who, by holding out to the stronger a prospect of gain, succeeds in effecting peace. This is not a particularly wonderful thing to do. But the marvel is that Ânanda Ranga Pillai, a man residing at Pondichery, and of extraordinary qualifications, has brought about peace between the Subhadar of Arcot, and the French, against whom the armies of the Muhammadans and their allies advanced in formidable array. Ânanda Ranga Pillai, however, has succeeded in effecting peace between them, as easily as one would remove a hair caught in a lump of butter, or as the dews are dissolved before the rays of the morning sun; and he has thus acquired such repute that it has spread throughout all lands. This is how his reputation has arisen. There was, in Europe, war for a long time between the kings of England and France. This led to the two hostile nations capturing ships belonging to each other which were

What the
public
exclaimed
on reading
the accounts
of him, cir-
culated by
order of the
NizamAnd their
opinion as
to how his
reputation
has arisen.The contest
between
the English
and French
in India,
then retold
as follows.

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The mili-
tary
strength of
Madras.

either anchored in the ports of their adversaries, or sailing on the high seas. Now, on this coast, the city of Madras was in the hands of the English. Its reputation had even reached the Emperor of Delhi; and many rich bankers and Europeans resided there. It was amply provided with all the munitions of war; such as artillery, powder, cannon balls, and rockets; and if even the Emperor had directed his arms against it, he would have been repulsed. This English city is near the French possessions. The English ships, also, were constantly cruising, in great numbers, in these waters. Such being the condition of affairs, the king of England, in view to make them more powerful, sent out to his people here, a fleet of his own men-of-war, provided with all warlike material, and manned by skilful sailors. They were coated with iron armour,* and joined those of the English cruising in this neighbourhood. The men on board the French ships had not heard that war had broken out, as they were engaged in long voyages to distant countries, for trading purposes. Whilst they were engaged in their business, and in no anticipation of danger, the English fleet came to the places where the ships were, and captured and plundered them. The prizes were taken, by the English, to Madras. The French at Pondichery thereupon asked them the reason for the seizure

Arrival of a
fleet of
English
men-of-war.

The
capture,
by it, of
French
ships.

* Winslow renders the Tamil word here used, as "armour" or "coat of mail." "Iron" is prefixed to it. The flight of fancy which Ranga Pillai commences on page 365 continues to nearly the end of page 382.

of their ships. They replied in writing: "We have not taken them. The royal fleet which came from England, seized and delivered them to us. We cannot hand the prizes over to you, without the permission of the officers of that fleet, and of His Majesty, our king." The English, fearing the consequences of their temerity, armed Fort St. George and its ramparts, cleared the ground about it, wrote to England for a reinforcement of 10,000 soldiers; and also fortified Fort St. David. Seeing the preparations that were being made, the French thought: "As the English at Madras are powerful, they have sent us this reply. Our own country is very far off. Our king does not know that our ships have been taken. We have only a small force here. We do not know how we are to continue our trade by sea. Madras abounds in men of position, and great traders belonging to various nations. Here we have only Ananda Rangappan. Let us not, however, lose heart. The same God who has, at this time, given the English in this country many subjects, and great wealth, has endowed us, also, with two qualities—courage, and military valour. The intellects of the great men and merchants of Madras glitter only as the stars, but the intellect, dexterity, skill, and resolution, of our Rangappan shine, in all respects, like the splendour of the sun. God has given him to us." In this way, the French comforted themselves, and gained courage. Thereupon, they wrote to Anwar-ud-din

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The refusal
to restore
them.

Prepara-
tions by
the English
for war.

What the
French
thereupon
thought.

Their views
as to
Ananda
Ranga
Pillai.

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They move
the Nawab,
and Nizam,
to interfere.

Khân, who had been appointed by the Nizâm as Subahdar of Arcot, in the following terms: "We and the English at Madras, have erected factories in your territories, and have been carrying on trade, much to your advantage. Now, the English have captured a ship which came to our factory, for the account of Imâm Sâhib. Does it not rest with you to inquire into this matter, and restore our property to us?" They also addressed the Nizâm, to the same effect. Anwar-ud-dîn Khân, powerless to order the English at Madras to restore to the French the prize which they had taken, and seeing the power and strength which the English possessed there, wrote to the French at Pondichery, the following reply: "This grievance is one too serious for me to deal with. You must take the matter into your own hands, and do as you think best." Thereupon, an individual at Pondichery named Ânanda Rangappan, and the Governor of Pondichery, laid their heads together. In this consultation, the Governor shone like the sun, and Ânanda Rangappan like the splendour of the sun; and it was decided to get ready for war. Preparations were accordingly made; and eight French ships were ordered from Mascareigne. As a lion rushes into a herd of elephants, so the French hurled themselves against Madras, surrounded the fort, and in one day astonished and bewildered the Governor, Members of the Council, bankers, great men, and all the people who were there. They filled the town

But meet
with
refusal.

A. Ranga
Pillai and
Governor
consult, and
decide to
prepare for
war.

The French
surprise
and capture
Madras.

with fire by shelling it, and by noon on the second day of their attack—the 9th Purattâsi of this year [21st September 1746]—they captured the fort, planted their flag on the ramparts, took possession of the whole city, and shone in Madras like the sun, which spreads its beams over the whole world, and, by its splendour, banishes all the starry hosts of heaven, which are then hidden from mortal gaze. Some of the merchants and principal men of Madras fled from the city, and hid themselves in jungles, and in mountains. From their retreats, they sent messengers to Arcot, asking the Nawâb for help. They promised to pay him large sum of money, for his own use, as, also, for the maintenance of the army sent to their aid. They entreated him to collect his troops, and those of the poligars, and they promised that they, too, would fight, side by side, with them. The Nawâb was influenced by the offer of money, and forgetting the neutrality which he had stated in his letter to the French at Pondichery that it was his resolve to maintain, sent Mahfuz Khân with a large force. He marched against Madras, and besieged it. The French sent to their own country, by the eight ships which they had there, the spoil obtained at Madras. These attacked the English men-of-war, captured two or three of them, and sank the rest. Thus, they left the English not a single ship on the high seas. The French also overcame and subjugated the Dutch, who were the allies of the English,

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The Eng-
lish induce
the Nawab,
to aid them.

Mahfuz
Khân
besieges
Madras.

The French
send away
their spoil,
and destroy
the English
fleet.

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They attack
and defeat
Mahfuz
Khan, at
Mylapore.

and seized their vessels. Mahfuz Khân, the eldest son of Anwar-ud-dîn Khân, was encamped at Mylapore with 6,000 horse, 30,000 foot, 2,000 rocket men, 15,000 match-lock men, and 30 pieces of artillery. He had entrenched his camp strongly, and was very vigilant. A French force, consisting of 500 men, marched from Pondichery to Madras, a distance of 12 leagues, and attacked the camp, at sunrise, with great slaughter. In about half an hour, the whole Muhammadan army was completely dispersed. The French killed vast numbers of men and horses. They seized the camels, the kettle-drums and trumpets, the Muhammadan banner, and the palanquin of His Highness, as also his turban and treasury. They next pillaged the camp. They pursued the fugitives to a distance of three-fourths of a league, dispersing them in every direction, and causing them to fly for their lives. They then entered Madras, in triumph. Mahfuz Khân, mad with defeat, swore that because the French had worsted even the forces of the Emperor in fight, he would not rest until he had taken Pondichery from them. Without a turban on his head, he went, with his brother Muhammad 'Alî, to their father Anwar-ud-dîn Khân, and intimated to him his intention of seizing Pondichery. Anwar-ud-dîn Khân replied: "The French there are very bad men, and of a revengeful spirit. There is associated with them one Ânanda Ranga Pillai, who is a jewel amongst men. It is, therefore, impos-

And, after
seizing
much
booty,
pillage his
camp.

M. Khan -
vows to
take Pondi-
chery.

His father
attempts to
dissuade
him.

sible, even for the Emperor, to overcome Pondichery. Why do you rashly contemplate taking that city? If that man, Ânanda Ranga Pillai, directed his attention to the capture of Arcot, he would effect it in two Indian hours, but he refrains from doing so because he considers that to seize it would be unjust, and that God would not approve of it. I therefore consider you would not be acting wisely, if you attacked Pondichery. So Anwar-ud-dîn Khân urged his son, in various ways, to desist from his purpose; but Mahfuz Khân, who was brooding over his shame, would not accept his advice. He replied: "I am determined either to conquer Pondichery, or die. If you will not permit me to attack it, I will, this very instant, throw a rag over my shoulders, turn fakir, and set out for Mecca." "If that be so," said his father; "do as you like." Thereupon, Mahfuz Khân and Muhammad 'Alî Khân collected all the horsemen in Arcot, as well as the poligars' forces, and a large body of infantry, and, marching with these, encamped to the west of Cuddalore and Fort St. David. The army consisted of 6,000 horse, 20,000 foot, and 20,000 followers of the poligars. The people of Fort St. David also joined the Muhammadan camp, and reinforced it. Whilst the Muhammadan army was encamped to the westward, 2,000 Europeans and 5,000 sepoys assembled to the eastward, in Fort St. David, with artillery. A thousand French soldiers, and a body of Mahé sepoys, marched from Pondichery, with five pieces

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But does so
in vain.

The prepara-
tions
made for
the expedi-
tion.

The troops
composing
it.

The Eng-
lish auxili-
ary force
at Fort St.
David.

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Muham-
madans
utterly
routed by
the French.

of cannon, and, as a huge tiger springs into a sheep-fold, rushed between the two forces, turned upon the Muhammadan army, and killed many foot-soldiers, horses, and elephants. The rout was complete. A shot, discharged by the French, took effect upon the Nawâb's state-elephant, laying open its skull, and causing the beast to run screaming for a distance of a league and a quarter from the field of battle, where it fell dead. Having thus gained a complete victory, the French returned to Pondichery, without having even one of their number wounded in the action. Mahfuz Khân afterwards sent for the English, and taunted them in the following words: "I have already had full experience at Mylapore," said he, "of the valour of the French, and of the wily policy pursued by a man named Ananda Ranga Pillai, who is associated with them. I nevertheless trusted in you, and in your words, and, disregarding even the advice of my own father, came to your assistance. I believed as you were to the eastward, that you would support me at the critical moment, so I pitched my camp here, but my position was precisely that of a man who had fallen into a well with his eyes open. There was no city like Madras, and its defences were powerful. But the French, with a small force, marched against it, and in a single Indian hour captured the fort. You are the Englishmen who have been thus driven out. Your men in authority are fit only to hand you the weights when you hold the scales to weigh

What
M: Khan
subsequent-
ly said
to the
English.

merchandise. Can they exhibit the diplomatic skill and foresight enabling them to ward off dangers, that are possessed by that man Ananda Ranga Pillai, alone?" The Englishmen replied: "Unless we receive a large reinforcement of ships, we cannot make head against the French at Pondichery. You need not be so deeply offended with us. From this day forward, we will place our camp in advance of that of the Muhammadans. We will even sell our goods and chattels to pay, as you have suggested, for the maintenance of your army." Having said this, they encamped outside the fort, in support of the Muhammadan army. Mahfuz Khân and his younger brother, Muhammad 'Alî Khân, thereupon sent for reinforcements of cavalry from Trichinopoly, and other places, and thus strengthened, they pitched their tents in the vicinity of Pondichery. But Ananda Ranga Pillai was not the man to be disheartened by their movements. He regarded this large body of men as though it was so much chaff, and advised the Governor, as befitted the occasion. He endeavoured to instill confidence into the minds of the people of Pondichery. He appointed proper men, at suitable places, to bring him tidings, and passed his days and nights without sleep or food, vigilantly watching the development of events. He caused beacons to be set up at intervals of four miles all round the fort, and took so many other precautions that even children would have felt confident that no danger was to be apprehended,

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The reply
which they
made.

A second
advance on
Pondichery
by Mahfuz
Khân and
his brother.

The action
taken by
A. Ranga
Pillai, to
thwart
them.

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What
M. Khan
said on
hearing of
this.

though 100,000 horsemen thundered at the gates. Mahfuz Khân heard of the warlike preparations that Ânanda Ranga Pillai had made to meet him, and that his heart was set on military glory; and he thereupon exclaimed: "Who in the wide world, can compare with this man? Who can equal him in valour? It is hopeless for one to expect to conquer him. My father only spoke the truth about him. It matters not how many days I remain here. I dare not even lift up my eyes to look at Pondichery. If Ânanda Ranga Pillai should hear of the disorder prevailing in my camp, and the terror felt by the English who skulk behind it, and, finding a fit opportunity, should give the signal to 2,000 of the men stationed outside the fort, to attack me from opposite directions, my army would be annihilated in the space of two Indian hours, and shame would be my portion. I dare not remain a moment longer without taking action. What do I care for these Englishmen? I must no longer listen to any suggestions. I will brave the opinion of every one. To escape with my life will be all that I can do. That man has despoiled me of even my turban. I must try every means to have it tied, and placed on my head, by that man's own hands, and to gain him as my friend. If I then retire with my forces, I shall have accomplished a great deed." Having thus deeply pondered over matters, he next inquired who was the fittest man to go to Ânanda Ranga Pillai, and open negotiations with him. He

He sends
M. Tavak-
kal to open
negotiations
with A.
Ranga
Pillai.

fixed on Muhammad Tavakkal, and sent him on this mission. When Muhammad Tavakkal commenced to treat with Ânanda Ranga Pillai, the latter, who understood what true courtesy was, said to him: "Only those who oppose should be opposed. Why should I entertain ill-will against a man who humbles himself? I had a mind to, one of these days, give the Nawâb, for four Indian hours, a pretty show of fighting, but he does not now seek it, and I have no longer any other desire than to comply with his wishes. He hoped to enjoy the sight afforded by pitting English against French valour. He, however, did not know that the whole horde assembled at Madras was like a stack of straw—huge as a mountain—and that the French were like a spark of fire. He accepted what the English said as true, and desired to amuse himself with the spectacle which he had provoked. It is not yet too late. Even now, I will bring about peace between our Governor and the Nawâb. I will persuade the former to give the latter many presents. I will have his turban tied, and put on his head; and I will send him away with honour." The envoy of Nawâb Mahfuz Khân returned, and reported to him what Ânanda Ranga Pillai had said. On hearing this, Mahfuz Khân rejoiced greatly, and said: "If Ânanda Ranga Pillai will personally invite me, I will certainly go to Pondichery, but not otherwise. I put my trust in no other man. I have heard the proverb: 'It is better to be at enmity

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The reply
which he
received.

M. Tavak-
kal reports
this to his
master.

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And returns
to Pondi-
chery, with
an invita-
tion to
Ranga
Pillai.Who asks
permission
of the
Governor
to accept it.Grant of
this de-
murred to.

with the unwise.' If you go to Pondichery, and return with him, I will ask him to guarantee my safety, and then start. Go thither, then, at once, and bring him with you." On this, Muham-mad Tavakkal, the representative of Maḥfuz Khân, came to Pondichery, and told Ânanda Ranga Pillai all that his master had said. Ânanda Ranga Pillai then went to the Governor, and said: "Nawâb Maḥfuz Khân has requested me, through his agent, to go to him. I will comply, and will encourage him to come here. What cause of enmity have we with the Muhammadan Government? We should invite him here, and loading him with valuable presents, send him away." The Governor then assembled his Councillors, and in their presence said to him: "In these days, we should trust no Muhammadans, and Maḥfuz Khân not at all. He has suffered many defeats at our hands; and, further, his mind must be filled with the grievous thought that he owes all his disgrace to you, who have been directing everything from here. Such being the case, how can we allow you to go into his camp, which is occupied by a large army? All of us regard you as the apple of our eyes, and we depend on the help of your counsels in matters of diplomacy. I will not send you to him. If he fears to visit Pondichery, let him depute a Muhammadan of rank; or I will send a Councillor to accompany him hither." Ânanda Ranga Pillai replied: "All these political complications have arisen because Maḥfuz

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Ranga
Pillai
persists in
his request.Which
is then
complied
with.What
M. Khan
said, on
hearing
that he was
coming.The inter-
view
between
them.

Khân listened to the words of the English; and in consequence of this, many lives have become a prey to death. It appears to me useless to prolong the war. The best course is to conclude a treaty. If I do not go when I am invited, it will be thought that there is now no one more chicken-hearted than myself. I ask you, therefore, not to forbid my doing so. I will, by your leave, go to Maḥfuz Khân, and invite him to come here." Having received permission from the Governor to depart, Ânanda Ranga Pillai set out, but was surrounded by the whole of the towns-people, who endeavoured to dissuade him from his purpose. He, however, was not to be moved, and having given them an assurance that he would return in safety, he proceeded to the Muhammadan camp. When Maḥfuz Khân heard of his approach he, in great astonishment, exclaimed to the principal Jemadars, who were with him: "What courage can compare with that of Ânanda Ranga Pillai? No one else in this world can possess the like." When Ânanda Ranga Pillai entered his presence, he immediately rose to receive him, and having embraced him, took him by the hand, and led him to a private apartment. He then poured into Ânanda Ranga Pillai's ears the tale of his own griefs, and continued talking for two Indian hours. Ânanda Ranga Pillai replied to all that he said, and, by adducing reasons and documentary proofs, deprived him of any ground for further argument. Maḥfuz Khân was highly delighted,

and said: "A man such as you should be Vizier to the Emperor; and failing that, Vizier to at least the Nizâm. The French are, indeed, fortunate in possessing you. I am now prepared to listen to all that you have to say. I place myself in your hands, and will go with you." Ânanda Ranga Pillai replied: "You may trust me. You need entertain no misgiving regarding your safety." Mahfuz Khân then gave the sword and dagger which he was wearing to Ânanda Ranga Pillai, and also presented him with gifts. He subsequently accompanied him to Pondichery. The faces of all the Englishmen who were then in the camp fell; they dispersed, and proceeded, by various routes, to Fort St. David. There was much joy amongst the Muhammadans, and the scene in the camp was as though Ânanda Ranga Pillai was manifesting himself there, in the form of the God, Brahma, and granting all in it their lives. He returned to Pondichery, with Mahfuz Khân, between whom and the Governor, he brought about peace. He caused many gifts to be bestowed on Mahfuz Khân, on whose head he had the turban replaced, and loading him with many honours, he sent him away. When conversing with the Governor, Mahfuz Khân expatiated, for two Indian hours, on the qualifications of Ânanda Ranga Pillai. Having received the presents bestowed on him, he then returned to the camp, and moving off with his army, reached Arcot.

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M. Khan makes gifts to R. Pillai, and accompanies him to Pondichery.

The effect of this on either party.

Ranga Pillai brings about peace, and sends M. Khan away with many presents.

Such was the public talk concerning me. The reputation which I had acquired was so great that the Governors of provinces, and all individuals of rank, were unanimous in declaring that there was not, in this world, my equal in diplomatic skill; and all this came to me by the grace of God alone, and not through any talent on my part. As the common talk is of me; of how I spent days and even nights without sleep in the careful conduct of the affairs of the Company; and of how I had been instrumental in extending the glory of the French over the wide world, and in making their name a terror, even to the Emperor of Delhi, and other princes, I am sure that the Europeans and the officers of the Company, who dwell in Pondichery, will allude to these matters in the letters written by them to those in their native land. I, also, feel convinced that the despatch to the Company will make mention of my strenuous exertions with regard to their affairs. My reputation will then spread throughout France, and all Europe. It is such as could not be purchased by me, even at the cost of 10 lakhs of pagodas. How can I relate the wondrous way in which God, in His exceeding goodness, has made me the possessor of it? I could record, at still greater length, all the credit that I acquired in this business, but as self-laudation is a most unwise thing, I have written as above, giving only hints with regard to it. Nawâb Mahfuz Khân not only praised me to my face, but spoke in commendation of me to the Governor, in

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Diarist writes that such was the public talk regarding him.

His belief as to the extension of his reputation.

He attributes it all to the grace of God.

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What, according to diarist, M. Khan said, in commendation of him.

The imaginary reply made by M. Duplex.

Concluding remarks of diarist.

the following terms: "As Ânanda Rangappan is employed at your Court, he, by his foresight, has not only converted the grave complications which threatened you, into matters of no importance, but has even brought me face to face with you, and has effected peace. His present position is one too insignificant for a man of his parts. He should be Vizier to the Nizâm; nay, to the Emperor. If he had his deserts, he should fill no other office." In these, and other like terms, did he sound my praises. The Governor replied: "It is true. I know that he is a very sagacious man. But his father, before him, was wiser still, and had great capacity for business. It is not surprising that the son should inherit from his parent the talents which you appreciate so much in him." So spoke the very ruler of a country, in my honour. By the grace of God, which rested exceedingly on me, I had the honour of being praised like Him. It is not I who have imagined this, but, throughout this country, all the people have joined in saying what I have stated above. I do not write more, because it is not proper that I should do so about myself.

At 3 this afternoon, a camel courier arrived with despatches. There was a report that he brought, to Muhammad Tavakkal, a letter from Nawâb Anwar-ud-dîn Khân Sâhib, which ran as follows: "I have heard, with great pleasure, that you and Ânanda Ranga Pillai arranged an interview between the Governor Sâhib and Mahfuz Khân, and

Report that M. Tavakkal received a letter from the Nawab.

Alleged contents of this.

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effected peace. The fame of Ânanda Ranga Pillai has now spread abroad like the rays of the sun." The Nawâb further expressed the wish that Muhammad Tavakkal should endeavour to secure more presents for him. It was also reported that Nawâb Anwar-ud-dîn Khân Sâhib addressed a letter to Mahfuz Khân and Muhammad 'Alî Khân. In this he expressed his anger with Muhammad 'Alî Khân, because he was not present at the interview with the Governor Sâhib, and commanded both Mahfuz Khân and Muhammad 'Alî Khân, to return to Arcot. The messenger stated that they thereupon countermanded the order which had, at first, been given for the march of their followers to Udaiyârpâlaiyam, and had directed their troops to move towards Arcot. He also said that he had heard from the Muhammadan horsemen that as the Nawâb had ordered the immediate return of the army to Arcot, it would halt to-night at Vizhuppuram, and to-morrow night at Gingee, and would reach Arcot the day after to-morrow.

What the Nawab is reported to have written to his sons.

Statement regarding the Muhammadan forces made by a courier.