

hastened to meet the Governor. Soon after M. d'Auteuil came, also the Second and others who had heard what had happened. Meanwhile the Governor and his daughter changed their clothes, and the latter went on in her mother's carriage. He remained to order that a strict search should be made for the ring and posted a guard of European military and Mahé sepoy there. Then he also went home.

I went to congratulate him on his escape, and so did all the principal inhabitants. He spoke jestingly of it, and his guests took their leave at seven o'clock. I went to my nut-godown, and thence came home at nine o'clock.

The Governor has already given away 300 rupees among the Muhammadan sepoy who helped him out of the ditch and among the beggars. He has also given 100 rupees each to St. Paul's and the Capuchins' Church—500 rupees in all; and he has besides promised a reward of 100 pagodas to whoever finds the ring.

*Saturday, December 16.*¹—When I went to the Governor this morning he could speak of nothing but his and his daughter's accident, and their narrow escape. Nothing else was mentioned. There is news from Fort St. David that besides the two ships that sailed recently, a ship and a sloop sailed to-day. The English are prepared for whatever may happen. There is nothing else worth writing down.

¹ 5th Mārgali, Prabhava

*Sunday, December 17.*¹—This morning, when the Governor had been to Church and taken his coffee, I went to him. He asked if I had sent men to the various places as he ordered yesterday.² I said I had. He said it would rain soon as the wind was high. Just then Rājô Pandit came and announced that the bride-groom, Nawâb Hirâsat Khân's son, would arrive this evening and desired that he might be received with due ceremony. The Governor asked what should be done. I answered that he should be met by two Councillors with music and dancing-girls. He then enquired what further was necessary. I said he should have fifteen guns on entering the town and fifteen more when he reached his lodging; and that if besides this he were given a guard of 100 Mahé sepoy to-morrow, and if the Governor welcomed him on behalf of Chandâ Sâhib, the magnanimity of the French would be spoken of so long as India should endure. 'There is no avail,' I said, 'in entertaining the low-born; but if you honour the Navâits³ who once were rulers of this country but who now are fallen, the Muhammadans as far as Delhi will praise your name, and your fame will be spread through the whole land, for showing them respect greater than they would receive in their own country. Besides, should the Navâits recover the

¹ 6th Mārgali, Prabhava.

² It should be 'the day before yesterday.'

³ Chandâ Sâhib and his connections were Navâits. For a long and interesting note on the meaning of the term, see Wilks' *Historical Sketches*, ed. 1869, i-150.

province, you will be as powerful at Arcot as you are in Pondichery, without any further trouble, once Chandâ Sâhib becomes Nawâb, as you have planned.' And with more compliments I told the Governor that Chandâ Sâhib's son would come tomorrow to invite him to the wedding.

He smiled at me, and answered, 'Very well; send for the master-gunner.' When he came, I announced him, and the Governor directed him to fire fifteen guns when they entered the gates and fifteen more when they reached their lodging; also to provide them with what tents and other things they needed. He then told M. Paradis and M. d'Auteuil to go to my house at three o'clock and accompany me to meet the party. They told me they would come rather earlier and asked me to have some tea ready. I said I would do so.

The Governor then told me to go home quickly and take my food. 'Take these gentlemen with you,' he said, 'to receive the bridegroom, and take him to Pedro's house,¹ which has been prepared for him. His baggage may be lodged in Pedro's godown next to the house on the west. Let me know as soon as you have done this.' So I took leave and came home.

On the way I met Appu Mudali taking the lost diamond-ring (which has been found) to the Governor. He was very pleased to receive it, and

¹i.e. Kanakarâya Mudali's.

gave a hundred pagodas to the coolies who had been sifting the mud to find it.

After I had eaten, I lay down for a while. Soon after, rain set in and continued without a break till the evening. Meanwhile Râjô Pandit came and said the Governor ought to go to the Fort Gate to meet the bridegroom. I said that was out of the question. As he went on begging me to arrange the matter, I told him bluntly that the Governor would not go; that he would only do what I suggested so long as it was reasonable, and this was not reasonable; and that he would never go out in such heavy rain which hardly allowed any one to go out. 'You may go yourself and ask him if you like,' I said. He then left, and set out with four or five horsemen to meet the bridegroom.

As it was still raining, I went to the Governor's to inform him that I was about to start. The two Councillors with music came with me. Meanwhile the salute announced that the bridegroom had entered the Gates. We met them by the painters' bazaar. Hirâsat Khân's son at once descended from his palankin and embraced me. Then he got in again, and we conducted him to his lodging—Kanakarâya Mudali's house—and on his arrival another salute of fifteen guns was fired. We were all quite wet through.

He gave M. Lemaire and M. Paradis each a dress of honour worth a hundred rupees. We then went home, quite wet through, after informing the Governor of the party's arrival. There were three

elephants, two hundred horses, six palankins, eight closed palankins for women, and 1,000 soldiers, besides two hundred bullocks laden with rice, ghee, and other provisions. In the procession the kettledrums went first; then the bridegroom; then Nalla Mâna Vikrama Pândiya, Asad-ul-lah Sâhib, his brother Asad 'Alî, and his brother-in-law S'aadat-mund Khân, Killedar of Kâveripâkkam. Dishes were sent to them from Chandâ Sâhib's house.

*Monday, December 18.*¹—When I went to the Governor's this morning, he asked whether any further marks of respect should be shown. I said, 'Once they were Nawâbs, and so they deserve all respect. Everywhere will you be praised if you treat them with honour; and since they were great once but now are fallen, your courtesies will seem all the greater.' And I added compliments. Thereon he ordered a guard of twenty Europeans, fifty Mahé sepoys, and ten horse with drawn swords to be stationed at the bride's house. An officer also was ordered to pitch a tent there and remain on guard. The same was ordered to be done at the bridegroom's lodging. After this we spoke of general matters not worth writing down.

I hear through Varlâm that Kommana Mudali is to be put in prison to-morrow, on Madame's complaints. We shall see if this is true.

The drummers beat as for the Governor when the bridegroom went to the bride's house and when

¹ 7th Mârgali, Prabhava.

he returned to his lodging at Pedro's—so great marks of honour were shown.

Sându Mudali's house has been assigned to S'aadat-mund Khân with Toppai's house for a kitchen, while Muttayya Pillai's house has been lent to Chandâ Sâhib's son to entertain his guests in at feasts and nautches. For the relations []¹.

*Tuesday, December 19.*²—While I was at the Governor's this morning, Razâ Sâhib, Chandâ Sâhib's son, came, and invited him to the marriage with many compliments. He promised to go, and then Razâ Sâhib took leave and went home. The master-gunner was then summoned, and ordered to post twenty-one guns, with some gunners, near Chandâ Sâhib's house, and he ordered that they should fire salvoes whenever asked to, and give as many displays of fireworks as possible, during the five or six days of the marriage festivities. The Governor also ordered sweetmeats to be prepared.

At eleven Varlâm came twice and spoke to him. I think he came about putting Kommana Mudali in prison. About noon as I was going to see Murtazâ 'Alî Khân's son, I heard that Kommana Mudali and Ammayappan (Dubâsh Ella Pillai's younger brother) had been arrested.

M. Barthélemy has written to the Council here saying that Malaikkolundu Mudali, the dubâsh who used to be a runner, and Nallatambi, the chief of peons who was formerly a scullion, are useless and

¹ Here is a lacuna in the MS.

² 8th Mârgali, Prabhava.