

took my leave. A short time before I left, M. Cayrefourg came in. M. Delarche thought that, if he suddenly dropped the conversation, it would look suspicious, and so continued, 'You have been sending money every month for the Tiravêr work.<sup>1</sup> It is required, and must not be stopped. Nearly a thousand pagodas are needed every month. What can be done if no money is given?' When he spoke thus indirectly, I understood him to wish me to say no more and so remained silent.

I think, from his being averse to saying publicly what he means, that he intends to play me false. But if I have to pay anything at all, shall I pay it without bringing it before the Council? There is still God.

I then went to the Governor's. He was talking with the Second on the northern verandah of the centre hall. On seeing me, he asked whether the townspeople were glad at the arrival of the silver. I replied that they were not only glad but astonished. He asked why. I replied, 'It is only natural to expect silver by the shipping, but they are surprised when they see silver without any shipping. They have never seen such a thing happen, and they say that such wonders are due to your good luck. People are standing in crowds from the *Gouvernement* to my choultry to watch the sight. You would not believe me, if I were to describe their

<sup>1</sup> The reference has not been traced.

joy; you may send some one or you may drive out and see it for yourself.' He smiled at this, and, turning to the Second, said, 'Ranga Pillai is only telling the truth. The ships arrived on Saturday and the same night, having landed the chests of silver and other goods, they departed, leaving behind a ship and a Dutch sloop which they had captured. Only a few at Madras saw them, and, if the people there were surprised, we need not wonder at the astonishment of the people here.' M. Legou, the Second, agreed and they joked about it.

The Governor sent at once for the head-peon and said, 'Tell M. d'Auteuil who has entered the bounds with his detachment to escort the coolies with the silver chests carefully, and instead of going that way to the Fort to come along this street.' So they entered by the Madras gate about ten o'clock, and passing down Kanakarâya Mudali's street, by my toddy-godown and by the Governor's house, reached the Fort, marching by M. Desjardins' house. First came the European troopers with drawn swords; then Europeans in order; then the silver chests on bullocks; then Mahé sepoy; then Europeans in order; then on one side Muhammadan horse and Coffrees on the other; and lastly sepoy. One's two eyes were not enough to take in the sight of all these armed troops, who looked so dreadful that their mere appearance would terrify an enemy or make pregnant women miscarry. All ascribe this joyful sight to the good fortune of M. Dupleix, and

say that the town's ill-luck ended yesterday, and that from to-day prosperity will attend it and all its inhabitants great and small. The Governor came out, eager to watch the troops march by. As they passed, they saluted him and Madame, who returned it gazing at them with faces of joy. The Governor only went in when they had turned into M. Desjardins' street.

There were 155 bullock-loads of silver and 3 of gold, and of the 400 soldiers who were landed at Madras from Europe, 300 came hither. A squadron of fifteen ships left Europe under the command of M. Saint-Georges. Some ships were captured by the English and the others reached Mascareigne one by one. Except what was taken for expenses there, the silver was put on board eight ships fitted for war,<sup>1</sup> and able to resist fifteen or twenty of the English ships. It was thought that the English ships would be lying off Fort St. David as it was near Pondichery, and so the silver was landed at Madras instead, and the ships were then to sail hither. That is why it was landed at Madras. The silver is reckoned at 13½ lakhs of rupees, but

<sup>1</sup> Saint-Georges sailed in the spring of 1747 with three men-of-war, eleven Company's ships and two sloops. All but three were wrecked or captured by the English. The *Lys*, *Aimable* and *Fulvy* escaped under Bouvet and reached the Isles in October. In May 1748 Bouvet sailed for the Coromandel Coast with the *Lys*, the *Apollon* and the *Anglesea* (privateers), the *Mars*, *Brillant* and the *Centaur* (Company's ships of Dordelin's squadron) and the sloop *Cybèle*. The eighth vessel would seem to have been the Dutch prize mentioned above, p. 64. See Lacour-Gayet, *La Marine Militaire sous Louis XV*, p. 216.

the amount of the gold is not known. It is however said to be 20 lakhs of rupees. I shall find out and write its real amount later. I have written the amount of the silver as I know its weight and price; a portion has been detained for expenses at Madras, and only the surplus has been sent here. When it arrived, I was in the nut-godown street to watch the procession with M. Desmarêts, M. Coquet, some priests from the shipping, and one or two officers.

At seven o'clock to-night, I received letters from Kandappan and Tiruvēngadam at Kârikâl. Kandappan writes that Sēshayyāngâr and Wandiwash Tiruvēngadam Pillai have been imprisoned since the 1st of this month. I know not how God will punish M. Paradis for his injustice.

At eight o'clock the Governor sent for me and said, 'The coolies are not coming in properly to work. The tank-diggers work one day and then get drunk for two; and you have not ordered the palmyra trees in the Nayinâr's tope near the walls to be cut down.' I replied, 'I only received orders yesterday. I sent word to M. Gerbault this evening to cut them down.'<sup>1</sup> To-morrow I will order three or four hundred palmyra trees, even if they are in bearing, to be cut down. I shall also send for the tank-diggers and tell them not to make excuses but to work regularly. Coolies are now coming in by fifties and hundreds, and I will tell the Nayinâr

<sup>1</sup> Reading *vetti* for *velli*.