

all the Europeans in the eastern part<sup>1</sup> of the town were taking refuge every evening in the Tamils' houses to the west, and so alarming both them and the rest of the town. The Governor listened to what I said, and then remarked that many Christian women had remained in the town, and that he had seen many when he was going to church. I replied, 'The Tamil women were afraid to leave the town and so remained, and only removed their goods when they saw the women of Christians and wealthy men departing with their property. The Tamils have a saying, "Leave the town in time of war but remain in it in time of famine." But it is well that people have left the town, because there was not enough grain here.' He went away as though he had not heard what I said. I sat down there.

To-day Madame arranged that her servants, Varlâm and the youngest son of Toppai, should wait upon the Governor by turns, and report to her whatever people might tell him. So they waited constantly upon the Governor by turns, and reported to her all I said to the Governor. The chobdar always used to attend on the Governor, fetch those whom he wanted, and do whatever was needed; but now all this is being done by Varlâm and Toppai's son. I do not know what will happen.

The Governor went inside, and then into Madame's room; when he returned, he said a word or two to me and I answered him.

<sup>1</sup> The European quarter of Pondichery, then as now, comprised the streets nearest to the sea.

He came again and said, 'I hear that the English are about to retire, and that Mr. Floyer, the Governor of Fort St. David, is demanding the return of his men. Besides, he is said to have reproached Mr. Boscawen, the Rear-Admiral, with having lost many men before the Ariyânkuppam fort and with having been able to capture it only when the French had abandoned it. Has Mr. Boscawen in consequence returned to Fort St. David with the soldiers he brought from there?' Thinking that this must be news given to Madame by her spies, I replied, 'This is not news brought by one who has heard and seen. Any one will spread news to serve his turn, and this may be true or false.'

As I was thus speaking to the Governor, news came that the English had seized Olukarai and other places whither they had marched by Perumâl Nâyakkan's Choultry, by way of the jungles and hills. Then we heard the sound of firing from where the English were attacking the Europeans encamped at the bound-hedge. Hearing this, the Governor got into his coach and went to the Cuddalore gate.

When the enemy is seizing him by the throat, a Governor should consider day and night how to conquer the enemy and defend his town, and he should send good spies for news. But the Governor wastes his time inquiring into stories told him by his wife that So-and-so goes to sleep; when she says that the enemy have retreated, he believes her and

tells every one who comes to see him. Between him and his wife the whole town is being ruined. Moreover she gives unjust orders, accuses men falsely, imprisons them, beats them and puts them in irons. The Christians are favoured, and no one dares question them, even if they raise a riot or beat people. Moreover M. Legou the Second, is as bad, is so foolish as not to care what harm befalls the town, and would do nothing even if he himself were seized. Pondichery has to undergo the malign influence of Saturn for seven years and a half; and as Madame Dupleix, M. Dupleix, M. Legou the Second, the Councillors, M. Guillard and others would stoop to pick up cheroot ends, injustice has established itself and flourishes everywhere. I know not when God will deliver us from these troubles. The town is in misery; many have deserted it; when will God put an end to this?

This evening the English army marched to the bound-hedge, and our men, unable to endure the fire, fled to the gates, and in their flight set fire to the bound-hedge. The Governor then sent men to set fire to the potters' village near my garden, to the houses near Sâram, and to the parachêri near Dêvanâyaka Chetti's Choultry. Madame told him that the Maravars or Kallars<sup>1</sup> (whom she fetched from the south at six rupees each) had, by her orders, stripped the whole bounds—the potters'

<sup>1</sup> Robber castes of Madura and Tinnevely. See Thurston's *Castes and Tribes*, III, 53 and V, 22.

village, Sâram and other places, and carried off even the cloths which the women were wearing. I need not add that they took the money and goods also—men may judge for themselves. How can I describe the government of M. Dupleix? God alone can protect us; man can do nothing to restore our happiness.

Till now our soldiers have done nothing, and the English are camped at the bound-hedge, Olukarai and elsewhere.

*Saturday, September 7.*<sup>1</sup>—When I went to the Governor's this morning, I heard the following news:—Yesterday the English advanced to Perumâl Nâyakkan's Choultry. Then the Europeans and sepoy's abandoned the bound-hedge, and set fire to it, to the potters' village, the parachêri and other places; and withdrew to the walls, gates and batteries of the town. The English occupied my big garden and all the bound-hedge. This morning tents were pitched round St. Paul's Church, and two hundred soldiers and a hundred sepoy's were quartered there. The Governor, M. Paradis and others went thither and desired that a mortar might be mounted there. But they<sup>2</sup> asked that the Îswaran temple should be pulled down. I think the Governor may have arranged (through Madame) for their help in certain Europe matters; so, as this is a time of war, there was much talk, a council was held,

<sup>1</sup> 26th *Āyanī, Vibhava*.

<sup>2</sup> Apparently the Jesuits.

and the priests were told that the Îswaran temple would be demolished. The Governor then went home.

The Governor has dishonoured himself. Firstly, he has listened to his wife's words, allowed her to manage all affairs and give all orders, and so received no news of the enemy's advance till they attacked our sepoy's at Muttirusa Pillai's Choultry. Secondly, Madame has raised a hundred peons and let them plunder people going to and fro. Thirdly, he gave Madame the whole management as if this were a village which lived by selling cucumbers, and every one, the toddy-men, cultivators, merchants and even men from territory subject to Anwar-ud-dîn Khân's amaldârs, have been seized, chained by the neck, and made to carry earth. Fourthly, he listened to his wife, and managed the Madras matter without profit to himself or the Company, sent agents who plundered as they liked, raised disputes among merchants, and ruined the whole town. Fifthly, the Pâdshâh at Delhi rejoiced when he heard that M. Dumas had protected the subahdar of Arcot in a time of troubles. Of his own accord, he gave the Governor the command of 4,500 horse, raised him to the rank of Nawâb and conferred upon him the naubat. The glory of the French shone like the sun. But now when that Nawâb's family desired to depart by reason of the troubles, he first allowed them to go, and then, obeying his wife, he sent soldiers after them, when

they were a mile on their way, to stop them, made them stand in the sun and humiliated them. He also ordered Chandâ Sâhib's son to pay 10,000 rupees, saying it was but a small matter, before he departed. So by troubling those by whom the fame of the French was first carried to the Pâdshâh, and by whom were obtained the rank of Nawâb and the naubat, he has got nothing but dishonour which will be known to all, even to the Pâdshâh himself. Lastly, the priests of St. Paul's Church have been trying for the last fifty years to pull down the Vêdapuri Îswaran temple; former Governors said that this was the country of the Tamils, that they would earn dishonour if they interfered with the temple, that the merchants would cease to come here, and that the town would decay; they even set aside the King's order to demolish the temple; and their glory shone like the sun. But the Governor listens to his wife and has ordered the temple to be destroyed, thereby adding shame to his dishonour. If he behaves thus in these affairs, what will he do in others? How can I write everything? The times are ill; and to make matters worse, the town is besieged. I know not how God will protect the people.

M. Cornet came and complained that I had not brought in the paddy which I had purchased in the country. The Governor answered, 'I myself ordered him not to bring it in, as the English are everywhere.' He then called me and asked how

much paddy I had brought in from the country. I said about six garse. He then told me to issue it to the coolies who were at work. I said I would do so. He then told me to measure what liquor I had, and deliver it at the Fort to M. Cornet who would pay for it; and added that the canteens would need no liquor as Monsieur would issue it direct to the soldiers. He then ordered it to be proclaimed by beat of tom-tom, that all Tamils, Europeans, Topasses and Muhammadans should deliver all their liquor to M. Cornet who would pay for it, and that if they neglected this they should be hanged. I said it should be done, but added that the Europeans and the sepoy in the town were entering the Tamils' houses and stealing the rice and whatever they could find. He ordered it to be proclaimed also that Europeans and sepoy doing so should be hanged. I had these orders proclaimed accordingly, but they are not being obeyed. Even as the proclamation was being made, a Coffree entered a house and stole some rice, but the Governor did nothing. Who will fear unless the Governor punishes some one? But he does not care, and only gets angry with those who report the news to him. The Coffree was kind-hearted; he only took away the rice and let the Chetti alone; but another might have beaten the Chetti, entered the house, and carried off whatever he could find. There are many robberies like this. The peons go into houses and carry off the rice set aside for food,

pretending that they have Madame's orders, and beat to death those who would hinder them. Although all the Europeans and Tamils know this, and even the Second himself, none does anything. I cannot say how ill are the times or what next may happen.

The Governor wrote some Europe letters this evening, and gave them to the Surat messengers who were sent off by catamaran and landed at Kânimêdu. The catamaran people report that they landed them safely.

The Governor ordered it to be proclaimed by beat of tom-tom that all coolies, cultivators, etc., who could work should assemble to-morrow morning, and that they should receive one small measure of rice and the usual wage. I had it proclaimed accordingly.

M. Paradis and 'Abd-ul-rahmân have interceded with the Governor on behalf of Appu who was imprisoned, and got him released.

*Sunday, September 8.*<sup>1</sup>—Yesterday, 200 soldiers, 60 or 70 troopers and 200 sepoy were stationed at St. Paul's Church in view of the matter in hand. This morning, M. Gerbault (the Engineer), the priests with diggers, masons, coolies and others, 200 in all, with spades, pick-axes and whatever is needed to demolish walls, began to pull down the southern wall of the Vêdapuri Îswaran temple and

<sup>1</sup> [27th] *Ācari, Vidhava.*