

the matter and let them go, desiring me to apologise to M. de La Selle, explaining matters and begging forgiveness. So I sent M. de La Selle and the soldiers away, saying that he had forgiven them. I have already written that such were the Governor's orders; so M. de La Selle departed with his soldiers.

When I had returned and sat down again, Jemadar 'Abd-ul-rahmân came. They told him the whole story. The jemadar replied in his usual prating way, 'Barking dogs don't bite; but who will dare to insult Muhammadans so long as I am here? There are 1,500 of us, all ready to die. We will go out of the Fort, show what we can do, and depart.' I said nothing either for or against him, and took leave. The Muhammadans said to him, 'In spite of what had happened, and the coming of the soldiers, Rangappan succeeded in settling things smoothly; else we should have been in danger.' They then asked him to see their house, and showed the damaged doors and locks and the holes in the floor. 'Abd-ul-rahmân rashly exclaimed that he would go at once to the Governor and speak plainly to him, no matter what might happen. He then took leave and went with me to the Fort. As soon as we had reached the Fort and presented ourselves before the Governor []

*Saturday, October 12.*¹—When I went to the Fort this morning, the Governor, M. Robert, M. Serre,

¹ 30th Purattâsi, Vibhava.

M. Duquesne, M. Friell and others were sitting drinking coffee. I went and paid my respects. The Governor turned to me and said, 'You said that those who are learned in the Tamil Shâstras declared that the English would go away by October 1. It is October 12 and must be the first of the month for you; but the English have not gone yet.' M. Duquesne and M. Friell said that by the 30th Purattâsi, the town's bad days would end, that by the first of the Malabar¹ October its good days would begin, that the English would depart, and there would be heavy rain. M. Duquesne added, 'I am so sure of it that I have betted with five or six people; what do you say, Ranga Pillai?' I replied, 'To-day is the 30th of our September and 12th of your October. To-morrow is 1st Arppisi—the 13th October. To-morrow you will hear that the English are departing, and there will be heavy rains. You will surely win your bets. The sand was blowing about last night, and that is a sign of rain.' The Governor said, 'That is true. Besides, there is much lightning and a slight north wind. It has been hot and dry for a long time; so there is sure to be rain and wind.' I observed, 'There will be a storm, and you will hear that the English have lost many ships.' The Governor continued, 'You said that by the first of your October we should hear of the English retreating. When will they actually

¹ 'Malabar' was the term commonly used to designate Tamil. The Hindu month *Arppisi* is meant here.

go?' I rejoined, 'To-morrow you will rejoice to hear of their retreat, and within twelve days from to-morrow every man will have departed. There will be no heavy fighting from to-morrow; it will decrease day by day. They will only make a show of fighting for five or six days, until they have removed their goods. Then they will remain at Ariyânkup-pam for five or six days more, and surely by the time I say, by the 13th of Arppisi, they will have departed. Be sure of this. Is it for the first time I have said so? A month ago I said that by the end of September and the beginning of October, our good days would begin, that the English would then be preparing to depart, and that, within eleven or twelve days more, they would all be gone. Moreover I have said the same whenever you asked me.' The Governor replied, 'True, Ranga Pillai; what the Brâhmans predict almost always comes to pass; I have seen many instances of it.' I replied, 'Have I not predicted many great things and have they not come to pass?' — 'It is so,' he said.

While we were thus talking, Jemadar 'Abd-ul-rahmân and Shaikh Ibrâhîm with their peons came and said, 'As we were going to Pudupâlaiyam with seven or eight hundred sepoy, 100 Coffrees and some Muhammadan horse-men, having heard that the English were raising batteries there, we found 300 of Malrâjâ's peons, Carnatic sepoy, Bombay sepoy and 200 Pariahs called Parvari. These were surprised by our approach; some were

fast asleep, some at the tank, some standing and some sitting; so we attacked them, and they cast away their arms and fled at our first fire.' 'Abd-ul-rahmân's sepoy picked up three muskets, ten Râchûr rockets, and four or five swords and cross-hilted daggers; Shaikh Ibrâhîm's sepoy found five or six muskets, ten or twelve Râchûr rockets, and five or six swords and cross-hilted daggers. One sword was very fine, but when 'Abd-ul-rahmân asked for it, Shaikh Ibrâhîm's peon refused to give it up. It was also said that when Shaikh 'Abd-ul-rahmân demanded a fine sword which had been picked up by one of his own peons, the latter refused; so he was given forty or fifty lashes and the sword was seized. Two of the Bombay Pariahs were brought in by Shaikh Ibrâhîm's and 'Abd-ul-rahmân's men, and the latter captured a Vadugan¹ with a small pearl ear-ring in one of his ears. Moreover his sepoy seized some rupees, bangles, female clothes and so forth. Our people, thinking they had done enough, slowly retired, as the Europeans of the English army and their sepoy advanced to attack them, and captured ten or twelve of our sepoy who were plundering. Ponnai, one of Madame Dupleix' peon who went to plunder, got five or six blows on his head and back, as an example, but has escaped. As soon as their army came up, one of their sepoy rode out, killed two of our sepoy

¹ See Thurston's *Castes and Tribes*, Vol. VII, p. 266.