

the dress of honour which he himself had received, and explained that the presents given by great men were never of value but only marks of honour. So the matter was smoothed over and M. Law explained it to M. d'Auteuil who was then satisfied.¹ I reported this to the Governor, and added that it was also written that Chandâ Sâhib proposes to leave Arcot for Pondichery on the 22nd of the Muhammadan month. The Governor said, 'That is very good.' As it was written that the European and Muhammadan troops were encamped before Chêtpattu, that Shaikh Muhammad Sharif was trying to arrange terms, and that the fort would be seized if they did not agree, the Governor told me to write to Shaikh Muhammad Sharif as follows:—'You are trying to make peace between Mir Sâhib and Chandâ Sâhib. If you succeed, pay the sepoys out of the money that you will receive; and also pay 10,000 rupees as batta to the two officers, M. Duquesne and M. de La Tour and the 300 soldiers that have gone to fight at Chêtpattu.' He also wanted me to write a similar letter to Shaikh Hasan. I did so and gave him the letters. He handed them to M. Bertrand to be sent to Chêtpattu along with his letters to M. Duquesne and M. de La Tour.

¹ 'La correspondance de Dupleix avec son beau-frère d'Auteuil . . . nous montre que les préoccupations de Dupleix . . . affectent en général un caractère personnel et témoignent d'un certain esprit de lucre . . .'. Caltru, *op cit.*, p. 239.

Then the Company's merchants asked for an advance. He told them to bring in cloth quickly, and said he would order money to be paid to-morrow after it had been counted. He also told them to send for *Kaikôlans*, *Sédars*, *Séniyars*¹ and other classes of weavers and said, 'Villiyannallûr is a healthy town with a river and groves of trees. Weavers who agree to build houses there will be given ten pagodas a loom, to enable them to build their houses and weave. They will be kept in constant work and must weave and supply plenty of cloth, repaying what is advanced them at the rate of one pagoda a year. Moreover yarn, cotton, etc., shall be brought in without being taxed for two years after they settle there, and they shall be given cowles accordingly. I spoke to Rangappan about this yesterday, and I tell you about it now. So tell the weavers and bring them.'² They replied, 'Rangan told us last night that you had given such orders. We will send for weavers from Udaiyarpâlaiyam, Chennamanâyakkanpâlaiyam,

¹ See Thurston's *Castes and Tribes*, Vol. iii, p. 31 and Vol. vi, pp. 348 and 361.

² This idea of settling weavers who worked for the Company within its own territory was old. In 1742 the Madras Council wrote that the French had expended much money in endeavouring to settle weavers at Pondichery, just as the English had done at Chintâdripêt, and with similar ill-success; therefore, they argued, it would be useless to attempt it at Cuddalore. One reason of this was the relative dearth of grain in the coast towns. Dupleix succeeded much better at Villiyannallûr, where 1,200 families of weavers are said to have been settled until they were scattered by the war in 1752.—*Mémoire pour la Compagnie contre le sieur Dupleix*, p. 78.

Conjeeveram and other places; and hearing this, weavers of all sorts will come—ten times as many as went to Chintâdripêt at Madras; and we will build houses for them.’ He replied, ‘Do so. I myself will go with you to inspect the place, and we will feast together before returning. Then I will choose the sites and give orders.’ They replied with compliments, ‘The food we eat is yours, and the blood of our bodies issues from the food you give us. The Nizâm will give you the Government of Arcot and other subahs. As we are your merchants, our prosperity will increase with yours.’ They added that worship had ceased at the Kâlahasti Îswaram temple and the Perumâl temple as they had been damaged in the siege. The Governor said, ‘You may do what you please. I will rebuild the Villiyanallûr temple and the walls round it and order the amaldâr there not to allow Europeans or other Christians to enter it.’ He also ordered the temples that had been damaged by shot to be repaired. I should need four sheets to write all that the Governor said about the temples in his delight. It is our good fortune that made the Governôr give such an encouraging reply to the merchants when they asked him about the temples.¹

They then asked for a hut to be built at the washers’ ford, and spoke about Râmakrishna Chetti’s

¹ Indeed, it was a marked divergence from the policy previously followed by the French, including Dupleix himself.

palmyra business. He refused smilingly and dismissed them. Then they went home. The Governor had meant to dine at Ariyânkuppam but did not go as he heard that M. Barthélemy had reached my Choultry.

M. Barthélemy, M. Moreau, the commandant, the second captain, head-peon Mâri, coolies, etc., who went to Madras when it was in our hands, returned this afternoon with all their goods—even their pots—except what they had already sent. I went to the Fort at half-past four and visited the Governor. M. Barthélemy, M. Moreau, M. Goupil, Captain, and M. de La Touche said to the Governôr, ‘Mr. Lawrence, the Major of Fort St. David, who was taken prisoner at the battle of Ariyânkuppam and released after the war, and who came back here in August last about the restoration of Madras, which was fixed for September 1, took possession of the Fort and the town at eight o’clock on Monday, September 1. The Brâhmans did pûja, coconuts were broken, sheep sacrificed and other Tamil ceremonies performed, before the flag was hoisted; then an extraordinary salute was fired from the Fort and from the ships. We do not know where the Tamils were who left Madras and would not return in our time; but when their flag was hoisted, ten lakhs of Tamils, Muhammadans, Lubbays, Pattanawars, coolies, etc., crowded into the town as joyfully as though the Fort and town belonged to

each one of them.¹ They also described the Tamil ceremonies which were performed. [M. Barthélemy added,] 'Afterwards Mr. Boscawen, the Unlucky Admiral, who commands the King's squadron, and others, Mr. Morse, the Company's servants and other Englishmen came ashore and desired me to dine with them. The rest of us went to Mylapore where they waited for me. After dinner, I set out for Mylapore with some Englishmen and joined our people there. I hear that when the English had entered the town and hoisted their flag, they proclaimed by beat of tom-tom that five years' assessment on lands, taxes on the purchase and sale of goods, and on houses, and the scavenging duties were all remitted. Afterwards they left the Fort and went to the Governor's house.'

The troubles befell at Madras 121 years and 5 months after the English came to India and hoisted their flag there. On September 21, 1746, the French under M. de La Bourdonnais fought, captured the place from Mr. Morse, the Governor, and hoisted their flag. Peace was made in Europe between the French and English on October 17, 1748, and Madras was then ordered to be restored to the English. Accordingly Mr. Boscawen, etc., went to Madras and took possession of it on Monday, September 1, 1749. It was the will of God that the

¹ An interesting confirmation of the Fort St. David despatch to the Company, dated August 30, 1749:—The rendition has 'occasioned universal joy among the late inhabitants who thronged there in great numbers immediately on hoisting the English flag.'

white flag should be hoisted at Madras, that the French should rule there only for two years, eleven months and ten days, and that thereafter the English should once more hoist their flag and return thither. The wise know that all things happen not as man wills, but as God ordains. Owing to the ill destiny of the city, a new flag flew over it instead of the old, houses were destroyed, rich merchants departed with the loss of their wealth and many great men perished. And in spite of people flocking back there, it will take twenty or thirty years for Madras once more to become the Golden City, for it is no easy affair for a city 121 years old to recover its prosperity after it has been once dashed to pieces.¹ Madras grew great out of the ruin of Golconda, Bijapur and Arcot. The islands and foreign lands returned 100 or 200 per cent. so that many grew rich; but now trade with Manilla, Mocha and other places scarcely returns the capital that is sent out.² So Madras is now only the Little City instead of the

¹ Ranga Pillai's prediction was verified. Six years later the Fort St. George Council wrote (*Pub. Desp. to Eng.*, October 27, 1755):—'The wealthy inhabitants of the Black Town are very few indeed compared with those before the loss of this settlement.'

² Complaints of the decay of the country trade were at this period very frequent. In 1741 the Fort St. George Council gave it as a reason for increasing the officers' pay; in 1745 the Pondichery Council wrote:—'Le commerce de l'Inde en Inde déperit tous les jours; les marchandises y deviennent plus rares que jamais, diminuent chaque année de qualité et augmentent de prix' (Despatch to the Company, February 11, 1745, P.R. No. 7). Cf. also Long's *Selections*, p. 119, for similar complaints of 1758 in Bengal.

Golden City, as it once was called. I write my thoughts; we shall see God's will.

The Governor ordered head-peon Anantappan, from Madras, and his 100 peons to give up their muskets and badges and depart. He also dismissed dog-boy Savarimuttu and the poligar's peons. The dog-boy had a letter from the Kâttukôyl Padre¹ recommending him to be poligar here. But the Governor was angry and sent him away. I heard that he went away saying that he would ask Madame for the appointment. The news of the rendition of Madras reached Fort St. David yesterday, and I heard the sound of many guns.

*Tuesday, September 9.*²—I went to the Fort to examine the Company's merchants' brown cloth, and thence went to the Governor's.

He said that M. d'Auteuil had written to him as follows:—On Sunday September 7, 1749, His Highness Chandâ Sâhib sent for M. d'Auteuil and M. Law and gave them 20,000 rupees for the officers and promised to pay the soldiers 30,000 rupees within a certain time giving a bond in the Governor's name. He gave M. d'Auteuil a mansab of 100 [horse] and therewith a village worth 2,000 rupees as an inam and sent them off in advance to Pondichery, promising to follow them shortly. They took leave and went to their camp proposing to set out that afternoon after dinner.

¹ Cf. Vol. iv, p. 411, *supra*.

² 25th *Avani*, *Sukla*.

Vakil Subbayyan's letter to me says the same and adds:—'Chandâ Sâhib' will choose a proper time to go to Pondichery after the new moon has been seen and the Khutba celebrated at Wandiwash. Hidâyat Muhî-ud-dîn Khân proposes to do this at Arcot and proceed to Pondichery by way of Gingee. Nawâb Zain-ud 'Alî Khân of Chingleput has agreed for two lakhs of rupees and the Chêtpattu business, which was long unsettled, has now been arranged, but I do not know for how much. I will write about it as soon as I hear. M. de La Tour, M. Duquesne, and the other officers who marched to Chêtpattu with 300 soldiers have been ordered to Pondichery.' When I reported this to the Governor, he said, 'Then it will be some time before Hidâyat Muhî-ud-dîn Khân comes.' I replied, 'Can we say so? He may come to Gingee after Chandâ Sâhib's departure; but perhaps Chandâ Sâhib comes first to make preparations of men, etc., to receive him and arrange about the marks of respect to be shown to him.' To these indefinite words he answered doubtfully. He was telling me that the Chêtpattu affair had been settled for three lakhs, when a letter came from 'Abd-ul-rahmân. It said that Hidâyat Muhî-ud-dîn Khân had recalled the troops before Chêtpattu as Shaikh Muhammad Sharif had settled for three lakhs of rupees.

The Governor then spoke of the preparations to be made for Hidâyat Muhî-ud-dîn Khân's coming