

Peddu Nâyakkan and Kôdandarâma Ayyan made a list of Muzaffar Jang's property as follows :—

Elephants, big and little	...	...	...	...	16
Camels	...	...	...	...	70
Coaches	...	...	...	...	26
Carts	...	...	...	...	10
Cannon	...	...	...	...	12
Rêklas	...	...	...	...	4

*Monday, April 6.*<sup>1</sup>—When I went to the Governor this morning, he ordered me to go to Chandâ Sâhib and ascertain what he had to say, so I went with Madanânda Pandit. He said, 'The Governor was pleased to help me with money, etc.; he sent his army as far as the passes to escort me coming from the northwards, killed my enemy, Anwar-ud-dîn Khân, and others, helped me to conquer the whole country, and made me great in all ways, whereby the French won unequalled fame for power and valour. But now M. d'Auteuil, the French Commander, refused to march whenever I wished to attack Nâsîr Jang, always saying that he could not meet Nâsîr Jang whose army was like the waves of the sea. So I begged the Governor to order M. d'Auteuil to march and fight whenever I required him to do so. This was done, and when I spoke to M. d'Auteuil about the Governor's orders, and

<sup>1</sup> 28th Panguni, Sukla.

urged that he should fight and conquer, he agreed. But the day before yesterday, I received news that Morâri Râo, Sâhôji Nimbâlakar and other officers were ready to abandon Nâsîr Jang, and that when in his fear of us he had resolved to retire, Mahfuz Khân, Muhammad 'Alî Khân and others restrained him, declaring that he could do nothing more dishonourable after such great preparations. Considering therefore that he remained against his will, I asked M. d'Auteuil to march saying that the time had come to attack, and that he might now capture Nâsîr Jang, owing to his great fear of the French. But he replied that we spoke ignorantly, as the enemy had a great army and he had been obliged to allow his officers to depart as they insisted on returning to Pondichery. Then the Governor sent M. Bury to advise the officers to obey; and M. Bury returned to Pondichery, as they agreed. So I again told M. d'Auteuil that as the officers had agreed to fight, we could now conquer, for Nâsîr Jang was greatly alarmed and that therefore he should not lie quietly in camp but march to battle. He replied that whatever I or the Governor at the fort might say, he could not march with so few men against such numbers. I and Muzaffar Jang told him that he should not speak thus, that no one should shrink from

fighting at the right moment, that the French were unequalled in valour, and that they would conquer the enemy if they attacked them at night. Thus we begged M. d'Auteuil, holding his beard and well nigh falling at his feet. But all our entreaties were in vain. He replied that all his officers had departed to Pondichery, and that he must go too. Thereupon Muzaffar Jang gave up hope and departed to his camp. I begged M. d'Auteuil to remain that night and in the morning let his drums beat for departure wherever he pleased. But he refused and said, once for all, that he must march and that I and Muzaffar Jang could accompany him or stay behind, and desired me to tell Muzaffar Jang. So I went to Muzaffar Jang's camp, and asked him if he intended to depart like the Europeans. He declared that he, the son of an amir, could not incur the disgrace of running away out of fear, for the Pâdshâh would despise him. I wished to report this to M. d'Auteuil; but he had already departed. They did not march all together; the Europeans scattered in all directions; M. d'Auteuil and a few soldiers went one way, Muzaffar Khân another, and his sepoys a third. Thus they scattered in a moment in all directions. I could not reach Muzaffar Jang's camp; and the Maratha army hindered my going in search of M. d'Auteuil

and the rest. I could not tell what to do; but, putting my trust in God, I marched after the European army with ten horsemen. Wherever we went in the darkness of the night, the Marathas fired at us; and afterwards, losing our way, we were again fired on by them. But contriving to escape, we met a European, who said that our people were ahead. Accordingly I went on and overtook Muzaffar Khân who had ten horsemen with him. I related to him everything and we proceeded together. Shortly after we came up with M. d'Auteuil marching with 100 soldiers and I accompanied him a certain distance. Then the sun rose. The enemy, hearing that we had retired, set out with many officers and men, and surrounded us when we were passing the Urchutu tank. Our people fought well. Mahfuz Khân, the Commander, was killed, Muhammad 'Alî Khân mortally wounded<sup>1</sup>, and the son of 'Abd-ul-nabî Khân of Cuddapah slightly wounded. As so many officers were killed and wounded, troopers must have fallen by the thousand. We also lost many men. Had our army instead of retreating marched with one-sixteenth of the bravery they showed in this fight, Nâsir Jang could easily have been

<sup>1</sup> Quite false. But Chandâ Sâhib seems intent upon persuading Ranga Pillai that d'Auteuil would have won if he had fought on the previous day.

captured and the war brought to an end. In the peace talk it was proposed that Muzaffar Jang should keep his jaghirs of Adoni, etc., that I should have Arcot and Muhammad 'Alî Khân, Trichinopoly; but I did not agree to this, and demanded Trichinopoly as well. Saiyid Lashkar Khân wrote to me that he would arrange to obtain Trichinopoly and send the grants when they had been drawn up. If our people had not retreated, peace would have been made, and I should have secured the subah; but unhappily, M. d'Auteuil insisted on withdrawing, so Muzaffar Jang who remained behind has been seized and I have been ruined. All our plans have been spoilt by M. d'Auteuil. Report all this to the Governor.' Chandâ Sâhib shed tears of grief as he told me these things. I replied that I could not tell the Governor for he considered that Muzaffar Jang had played us false. Chandâ Sâhib answered, 'Muzaffar Jang is in no way at fault—that should not even be dreamed. Had he meant to join Nâsîr Jang, he would have written to say that he must join his uncle Nâsîr Jang, that he would pay our debts, and that his family should be sent to him from Pondichery. If he had really meant to abandon us, we could not have prevented him. It is no use blaming him for nothing. I will

swear on the Qurân that our affairs were ruined by M. d'Auteuil, not by Muzaffar Jang. Besides M. Bussy and others will confirm what I say. Unless this is explained to the Governor, how can he understand? He must be informed of it.' I replied, 'You are mistaken. By sending you help, he has lost many Europeans, Coffrees and sepoys. He thinks that matters have been spoilt by Muzaffar Jang's treachery; and he will become angry if you tell him otherwise. We should not tell him. But if we speak with caution, he will certainly see that the affair has been mismanaged by M. d'Auteuil.' Chandâ Sâhib answered, 'In that case, let us act according to the Governor's mind.'

I, Chandâ Sâhib and Razâ Sâhib then went to the Governor's. In the conversation, when Chandâ Sâhib suggested that M. d'Auteuil had spoiled the affair, the Governor grew angry and said, 'Our people are not to blame at all; it was Muzaffar Jang.'—'It may be so,' Chandâ Sâhib replied. The Governor continued, 'You acquit Muzaffar Jang because he is your friend.' Chandâ Sâhib said, 'Negotiations were going on to induce Morâri Râo and Sânoji Nimbâlakar to abandon the enemy; Morâri Râo was to receive the Tadpatri country and Sânoji some lands and money. They were certain to have joined us. Shall I