

Mutta Pillai. Thereupon the men were released. The amaldâr of Lâlâpêttai told the merchants that they need fear nothing, but rest in peace, and that he would go and induce the Nawâb of Arcot to release [the goods]. So the Kanarese,¹ Balijas² and others told the amaldâr of Lâlâpêttai that they could close their bazaars or sell their goods wherever they pleased and that their business should not be affected by any troubles between Europeans. He replied that no injustice was intended, that they need not close their bazaars and that he would explain and get their [goods] released. This is the news sent from Lâlâpêttai and it is not known what else will happen.' I replied, 'Nothing much can happen. This could not have been done with the master's knowledge. 'Abd-ul-lah Khân at Arcot is but an ignorant boy, who may have said anything; and the people under him are irresponsible. Nothing has been done up to now, except that the houses have been sealed up.' I intended at first to wait until a letter had come before telling the Governor; but to avoid disappointing them, I dismissed them asking them to come to-morrow morning at sunrise.

¹ Kanarese merchants seem to have conducted much of the trade with the western provinces, importing raw cotton, yarn and pepper. In 1785 a body of them petitioned for partial exemption from the Sayar duties, etc., on condition of settling at Conjeeveram.

² The principal Telugu trading-caste. See Thurston's *Castes and Tribes*, Vol. I, pp. 134, etc.

When I told the Governor, he replied indifferently and asked me why I had spoken of it as though it had been important. So I said no more about it.

*Tuesday, May 5.*¹—The Governor sent for me this morning, and asked where Nâsîr Jang had camped yesterday. I replied, 'He halted at Olakkûr and Sâram near Perumukkal. I hear that the killedar of the fort fired a salute, prepared food for him, and presented a nazar. Mr. Cope and Mr. Lawrence having left their troops near Pichavâdi and Tiruvakkarai, where they were encamped, went with one or two officers to Nâsîr Jang when he was about to march, and offered him a letter boasting of their services and praying him to give as inam Poonamallee, Mylapore and the Devanâmpattanam countries; but Nâsîr Jang tore it in pieces, and said, "What service have you rendered? The French not only helped Muzaffar Jang with money, men, etc., but when such a one as myself marched hither with a lakh of horse and made them great offers, they refused them, and instead of betraying him, boldly attacked me. The French are bold warriors who achieve their purposes with resolution; but you are only merchants. How

¹ 26th Chittirai, Pramôdâta.

can you be brave, in spite of your boasting?" So he ordered them to be dismissed, and having mounted his elephant he departed.¹ They tried to approach him, but he ordered his chobdars to remove them; and it was done accordingly. Morâri Râo's vakîl who was at the Nizâm's camp has sent the same news.' I added that Mr. Cope, Mr. Lawrence, Hâji Hâdi and others left Tûkkanâmpâkkam yesterday evening and marched to Fort St. David. As they were passing by Bâhûr, our dragoons camped there saw and spoke with them; and the peons who have come back from Tiruviti tell me that Mr. Floyer, the Governor of Fort St. David, is ill.

Then M. de La Touche, the captain of the soldiers, who has come in from our camp at Villiyanallûr, reported to the Governor that the flag had been hoisted at Villiyanallûr yesterday, that the dragoons had marched with guns, etc., yesterday afternoon to hoist the flag at Bâhûr, that the English army under

¹ On April 3/14, the English ambassadors wrote:—'We find a party is forming among the Nabob's ministers influenced by the French against us, who seem to intimate in their discourse that they hold the assistance we have given them in very little esteem.' (*Orme M.S.S., India, IX, f. 2196.*) On April 21/May 2, they write, 'Yesterday, we got Naser Jang's consent to our demands according to our former advices, and had our agreement reduced into writing in order for his signing it, that the Phirmaund might be made out, but it is not yet perfected, and this day his whole army has marched about six miles from us towards Arcot.' (*Ibid., f. 2205.*) The ambassadors returned to St. David's on April 24/May 5.

Mr. Cope, etc., had marched to Fort St. David, that his dragoons had spoken with them, and that the flag would be hoisted at Bâhûr to-day. The Governor remarked that Mr. Cope and others were not even dismissed in due form but pushed roughly out, so that they had been put to shame. M. de La Touche said he had heard that they had departed in great displeasure.

When we were thus talking, the report of guns was heard, and the Governor said they must be saluting the flag hoisted at Bâhûr to-day and added, 'Bâhûr has not been plundered. I hear that the gardens and the standing crops have not been touched and that not a fence has been broken down.' I replied that Zain-ud 'Alî Khân had guarded them with his people as it was his jaghir. 'Yes, that's why nothing was touched,' he said. He then talked at length about Nâsir Jang's and other affairs; but there was nothing else worth writing.

At six o'clock this evening, the Governor sent for me, and said that M. Guillard must be told to ask the merchants to pay, this month, the money they owed for the tutenague. I said I would do so.

Then he asked me what camp news there was. I replied, 'Chandâ Sâhib says that, as the army are marching by stages, there can

be but little news, and that as soon as they halt for a day or two, or when they reach Arcot, there will be no lack of news.' I then talked with him about Saiyid Lashkar Khân and others and came away.

*Wednesday, May 6.*¹—The Governor sent for me this morning and inquired the news. I replied, 'I hear Mr. Floyer is very ill. Although Mr. Cope did not succeed in getting a parwâna for the Devanâmpattanam country, yet the English have hoisted their flag in all the villages for fear that the matter should come to light and the French or others should come and tie *tôranams*.'² Dubâsh Muttukrishna Pillai has got a lease of Tirtanagari from 'Abd-ul-jalîl and hoisted the English flag. All the gentlemen, merchants and even the Company's servants in the English town confess that you are as an axe to the Muhammadans, but that no one can imitate you, that all must happen according to the destiny of the stars, that you are fated to be a very God of death to the Muhammadans, so that they fall down before you and serve you. They indeed hoped to achieve what you have done, and expended large sums of money with much powder and shot, and lost many men in seeking to help the Muhammadans, but all in

¹ 27th Chittirai, Pramôdâta.

² See Vol. VI, p. 139 *supra*.

vain ; for they have lost their honour and accomplished nothing. Why, they were not even given formal leave to depart, but were led away by a chobdar. The English have behaved like the fox who, seeing that all men and beasts feared the striped tiger, burnt its skin in stripes (being unable to find any other device) and so perished in agony. So too the English, expecting such success as the French had won, joined Nâsir Jang, wrought their utmost, and spent much, only to earn disgrace. Even though Chandâ Sâhib got the country, they could still have lived at Fort St. David and Madras ; but they were fated to lose their places. The people of Cuddalore and Devanâmpattanam mock them by pointing to the consequence of what they have done. Formerly these same people used to prophesy with joy that Pondichery would perish as soon as Nâsir Jang, whom the English supported, should come with a lakh of horse, and four or five lakhs of foot, and that his guns would pound the city into fragments. But now they admit that the Governor of Pondichery has terrified the Subahdar, driven away that great man Nâsir Jang, and accomplished whatever he pleased. Who else can do so? If the English attempt it, they will only destroy themselves. All the world knows this and we ourselves have

witnessed it in Pondichery and these parts. So they are ashamed. Not only do their own towns-people speak ill of the English, but they believe that their settlements will no longer prosper. People say that in the festival of the Ēkâambarêswârar temple at Madras¹ fifteen or twenty days ago, the car fell over in the course of the procession; that a meteor has fallen in the Fort, and that in consequence the town cannot escape trouble. In August-September 1746, the car of the Chintâdri Pillaiyâr temple² fell over during the festival and consequently the English³ flag was pulled down on 21st September 1746. So, by this evil omen, the English will lose Madras. That is why the English have made enemies of the French. Even if they had not come out to fight, they seized the padre of Mylapore, pulled down the Portuguese flag, and hoisted their own, thus provoking the Viceroy of Goa to send ships to capture Madras and Mylapore. I hear that these ships will arrive in ten or twelve days and then will be fulfilled these prophecies and portents. I told the Governor that the above had been told me by a Company's merchant of Cuddalore who was here.

¹ Built, it is believed, by Alangâda (Alingall) Pillai, a Company's merchant of the 17th century. See Love's *Vestiges*, Vol. I, page 572, n. 1.

² See Love, *op. cit.*, Vol. II, page 142 and n. 2.

³ The original has 'French' by an obvious error.

I then said, 'I hear that Nâsîr Jang will camp at Wandiwash to-day and that on reaching Arcot he will give a dress of honour to Muzaffar Jang and confer on him the subah of Arcot. All will happen according to God's will.' He agreed. Then we spoke of other matters.

When the Governor returned from the washing place this evening, he sent for me and said, 'The renters of Pondichery, Murungampâkkam, Ariyânkuppam, Olukarai, etc., villages have paid no rent for two years. How is it that you have not checked and made them pay?' I replied, 'As the season was bad in the year in which the English attacked us, you ordered the renters to pay the year's rent in the course of the next seven years. The rent for each year has to be paid by June. They will pay half to-morrow, the rest by June.' But he denied that he had said that the balance might be paid in seven years' time, and, sending for M. Friell, asked him. He replied, 'There is a balance of two years' rent due for Murungampâkkam, Pondichery, etc.' I replied, 'They say that nothing is overdue. If I may send some one, I will enquire properly and let you know.' The Governor then turned to M. Friell and asked if the renters had been permitted to pay their year's rent due in seven years' time. But he said