220

1750

He then asked why the left-hand caste dancing-girls who were imprisoned for not standing up in the presence of the right-hand caste people, had not yet complained, although they had been six days in prison. I replied, 'They say they should have been sent for and the matter enquired into before any one was imprisoned; that what they did has always been the practice here, and that it was wrong to imprison them merely for behaving disrespectfully. They add, that if they had failed in respect, similar disrespect should have been shown to them; but instead of that a complaint was made to you, and they have been dishonoured. They have come to complain to you about it.' The Governor asked where they were. I said that they were near my office. He replied, 'I will do as they please. Now there is great difficulty in finding money for the sepoys as you know. If I give a note, will they give 20,000 rupees? I want nothing more. The affair may be forgotten. The left-hand caste people are Mahârâjâs, and can lend money. As soon as ships arrive from Europe, I will repay the principal with interest. Arrange this. As for the right-hand caste people, Arumpâtai has money which he cheated the Company of, but no one else has any.' I replied, 'There are one or two others who have money, but they will not give a single cash.

But they never interfere in matters which don't concern them.'-- 'True,' he said and repeated that I was to speak to the left-hand caste people. I therefore took leave, saying that I would ask both sides to appear before him tomorrow, and went to my office. I told the left-hand caste people that the Governor wished them to come to-morrow, and dismissed all but four, to whom I related what the Governor had hinted. They were alarmed, and said, 'Where can we find money? If justice is done, we will remain here; but otherwise we will depart, since the time has come for us neither to eat nor drink here.' When I explained how matters stood, they were somewhat pacified and said, 'What wealth have we? But we might make a small present. We will think over it.' So saying, they went away. I sent for the headman to tell the right-hand caste people to come tomorrow, and came home at nine o'clock.

Pâpu Reddi, the poligar who recently seized Turaiyûr, and Varadarâja Reddi, the newly appointed dalavâi, write as follows, after compliments:—The chief poligar and his younger brother's son, who was minister, were on ill-terms. Pâpu Reddi, the chief poligar who had fled, returned with troops, entered Turaiyûr, captured the fort, seized and imprisoned the minister who was exercising