

Mansûr 'Alî Khân, the Vizier, attacked the Nawâb of Murshidabad in Bengal, overcame him, made him pay tribute and still remains there.<sup>1</sup> Such is the news.

*Saturday, July 18.*<sup>2</sup>—When the Governor sent for me this morning, I reported that Mr. Cope and his troops had joined Muhammad 'Alî Khân's army at Tiruvannanallûr and now the two armies might move towards Tiruviti, Villupuram or Trichinopoly or retire to Arcot, but that we should learn to-morrow what they had done to-day. The Governor asked if I knew exactly how many men Mr. Cope had. I replied, 'How can I tell? All reports differ, and how can liars be trusted? Some from Cuddalore say that he has 500 Europeans and Topasses, while others say he has only 100. Others again report that he has 1,000 Topasses, Europeans, sepoy and Carnatic peons, etc. People from Tiruviti and our spies agree that he has 1,000 men in all.' The Governor observed, 'M. de La Touche writes that head-peon Savarimuttu sent out peons to enquire and that they report that the Europeans alone amount to 2,000. Who is to be believed? They have less than 500 soldiers altogether; so how can we believe these people.' I said

<sup>1</sup> The transaction seems to have been settled without invasion. See Orme, *History*, Vol. II, p. 44.

<sup>2</sup> 6th Âdi, Pramôdâta.

that men commonly reckoned a hundred horsemen as 500. He agreed and I then came away.<sup>1</sup>

Nallatambi Arunâchala Chetti spoke to Madame on behalf of the Chettis, with offers of presents; and he waxed proud because he thought he had Madame's favour and proposed to petition the Governor himself without consulting me. He objected to managing affairs through me, because he wished to appear the pillar of the Chettis, and the favourite [of the Governor], by arranging matters himself. The Chettis therefore came in haste and stood in the Governor's hall. I did not mind because their conduct would prove their own gain or loss, and would not affect me at all. Formerly when they desired justice, they sought it through me, and I deemed it my duty to arrange their affairs; but now they have relieved me of that obligation. I rejoiced therefore, and cared nothing how the matter might end. The Governor came out and asked what they wanted. I said they had come according to his order of yesterday, but that the right-hand caste people had not come. 'Let them all come together,' he said. When I told them, they knew not

<sup>1</sup> 600 military (this probably include, Topasses) were sent out under Cope, *Fort St. David Cons.*, June 26./July 7, 1750.

what to do and still waited. When he had walked a little, he came and asked what the matter was. They replied, 'The others have explained their case to you, but we have not. Both sides should be heard. We are the Company's merchants, so we should be supported, in order that others may respect us.' The Governor remarked that the left-hand caste dancing-girls had behaved ill. They replied, 'Do the right-hand caste dancing-girls rise when we get up to go? Neither should the left-hand caste dancing-girls rise for the right-hand caste people.' The Governor objected that it had been the custom for them to do so. 'That is not so,' they replied, 'according to the documents defining our privileges; so why should they rise?'—'Very well,' the Governor answered; 'let the others come and I will give my decision when I have heard them.' They then presented the two petitions which they had brought. Looking at them, he asked if Appu had ridden on horse-back. They declared that he had. He then sent for Appu, who, when questioned, replied, 'It is a common street I rode through; had it been a street belonging to the left-hand caste people, I should not have done so.'—'Whose street is

<sup>1</sup> These caste disputes frequently arose out of a party going on horse-back or in palankins through a street reserved for the opposite caste-group.

it?' the Governor [asked]. Appu replied, 'Topasses, Europeans, Pariahs, and others live there. There are three houses belonging to their barbers. Pariah marriage and funeral processions both go along it. So I too rode that way. As this was after the dispute had begun, I should never have done so without first making enquiries.' The Governor told me to enquire and report to him. Appu said to me, 'As there are some Panisavans<sup>1</sup> houses, I got off beyond the house of Dol, the European.' The Governor asked what he was saying. I told Appu to repeat it. 'Well, Ranga Pillai,' the Governor said, 'enquire into it fully and tell me to-morrow. Ask the right-hand caste people also to come, and I will hear what both have to say.' So saying, he told the left-hand caste people to go. They said, 'He told both parties to come yesterday. They have put off their coming. Are we to be treated as refuse?' So saying they desired me to ask the Governor to release the dancing-girls, adding, 'Shall we run away and not defend our privileges?' The Governor replied that, if he released them the right-hand caste people would [ ] and complain; so he would not release them, but told them

<sup>1</sup> See Thurston's *Castes and Tribes*, Vol. VI, pp. 55, etc. They are said to be divided between the two caste-groups.

to return to-morrow. The left-hand caste people took leave and departed.

Appu then said, 'In Elaichiyappan's street, there are a few families of both parties. That is also a common street. You are as my father and mother, so enquire carefully.' I replied that for my part, I should treat both parties alike, without favouring either, and dismissed him. I then went to the nut-godown. There the left-hand caste people repeated what they had already said. I replied that I would not favour either and dismissed them. So they departed.

*Wednesday, July 22.*<sup>1</sup>—When I went to the Governor this morning, I said, 'I heard yesterday that Muhammad 'Alî Khân's army which was encamped at Arasûr, had marched to Kanisapâkkam, west of Tiruviti. Major Lawrence, who is Governor of Fort St. David until the new one arrives, has recalled Mr. Cope; but Muhammad 'Alî Khân told Mr. Cope who was about to start that he had only come in reliance on [the English], and that, if they departed under the pretext that a new Governor had been appointed, he would be unable to fulfil his promises to Nâsîr Jang. Both he and Mr. Cope therefore wrote to Fort St. David, and Cope awaits further orders.

<sup>1</sup> 10th Âdi, Pramôdâta.

The Arcot news is that Hidâyat Muhî-ud-dîn Khân's younger brother was given a dress of honour on the night of Tuesday, the 14th. He and Naqsh Band Khân were sent to Hidâyat Muhî-ud-dîn Khân with a message that in two or three days a dress of honour would be given to him also and that all his desires should be fulfilled. They assured him that the dress of honour might be expected at any moment, but they could not tell precisely when.'

He then asked if the shroffs who had come here had heard anything about the Chidambaram and Bhuvanagiri money. I replied, 'I heard that 40,000 rupees had been sent to Cuddalore, part in Chêtpattu and Porto Novo fanams and part in Porto Novo pagodas, star pagodas, and other kinds. I immediately sent for Vîrâ Chetti and told him to write a cadjan letter to his brother at Fort St. David asking him to accept the 40,000 rupees worth of Chêtpattu fanams, etc. I also made the shroffs write to their people, to deliver their money to him and send a reply here. I sent a peon with both these letters to Cuddalore.'

He then asked what had been said about the matter I discussed with Mîr A'azam last night—Chandâ Sâhib's paying an annual sum so long as he remained in power. I replied, 'They asked the amount. I told them that I could not be expected to know, but that you