

was announced that henceforth any French officers and soldiers deserting to Cuddalore or Madras would be returned to the French, as also that English officers and soldiers deserting hither would be likewise returned. Letters were read, and drums beaten to announce this.

*Wednesday, January 29.*<sup>1</sup>—The English soldiers and officers—upwards of 500 in all—who were imprisoned here, were sent to Fort St. David with the three officers<sup>2</sup> who came hither, on the understanding that, as soon as they reached Fort St. David, an equal number of French soldiers and officers should be sent to Pondichery and the rest to France by way of England on a Europe ship.

*Thursday, January 30.*<sup>3</sup>—At five o'clock this morning I went to the Fort with the naubat, music, dancing-people, standards, chowries, etc., as M. Godeheu, the Commander-in-chief was to go to Villianallûr to meet his younger brother coming from Gingee. He had ordered me to be ready to start at seven o'clock. The Governor was dressed by half-past-seven and there were assembled M. Barthélemy, M. Guillard, M. Boyelleau, M. Meyer (the Second at Tranquebar), M. Desfresnes, captain

<sup>1</sup> 20th Tai, Bhava.

<sup>2</sup> Captains Polier and Beaver were sent to receive the English prisoners. *French Correspondence*, 1755, No. 7.

<sup>3</sup> 21st Tai, Bhava.

of the soldiers, [the Major], M. Goupil, M. Clouët, and other Councillors and officers together with Hasan-ud-dîn Khân's Fish Standard, etc., borne by an elephant. Cloth to be laid before them, the peacock-feather fans and white chowries were also ready. At half-past seven I went to the Governor, and asked him whether, as the sun was hot, he would take his coffee here or at Arumpâtai Pillai's Choultry. He said he would have it at Arumpâtai Pillai's Choultry. I then desired him not to delay his departure; so he set out. I went with Annâswâmi, Ayyâswâmi, etc., to Arumpâtai Pillai's Choultry, where a salute of 21 guns was fired when the Governor descended there at half-past eight. As he sat down, the dancing girls danced before him. I presented Annâswâmi and Ayyâswâmi to the Governor, who accepted two limes from each. The Governor asked if they were my sons. I said they were. He asked how many daughters I had. I said, two. He then asked how many sons and daughters my younger brother had. I said, one son, who had accompanied M. *le Commandeur*, and a daughter. He inquired if Annâswâmi were like his mother. I said, yes. He then remarked that Ayyâswâmi was like me. The Governor turned to M. Barthélemy, M. Desfresnes and M. Boyelleau and said, 'Generally, the first son resembles the

mother and the second, the father. That is the case with me and my brother.' He then pointed to Ayyâswâmi and said he looked sharp and mischievous, according to the saying that the elder is meek and the younger sharp-witted. 'That is the case with us,' he said; and, turning to Annâswâmi, continued, 'His large eyes and bright face show that he will be as happy and lucky as a Râjâ.' M. Boyelleau, M. Desfresnes and other European gentlemen said the like and blessed him. The Governor said that he sincerely regarded my family as the Company's, and repeated it so as to show all the Europeans his great favour towards me.

After looking at the *kalgiturra*, blue pendant and other jewels worn by Annâswâmi, the Governor said that they were valuable and asked if they had been got during Nâsir Jang's downfall. I replied, 'They were not acquired at that time, but were made for my father, and not out of my own acquisitions.' The Governor continued, 'Your father had these jewels made, but you must have yet costlier and finer jewels than he, and your sons than you.' I thanked him suitably.

At half-past eight or nine he ordered his coffee to be brought, but was told that it was not yet ready as he had been expected to take his mid-day meal. He then asked for a couple of plantains and some wine. On learning that

that also would have to be sent for, he told me to send a man quickly to Pondichery to get bread and wine. I said I would do so, and sent a man at once.

After witnessing the amusements for a little, he set out with the others for Villiyannallûr to meet his younger brother. I also followed with Annâswâmi and Ayyâswâmi. The writer Rangappa Mudali and others received him with music, dancing-girls, etc., and led him to a pandal where amusements were shown. He then again asked for his coffee, but as none was ready, I told Rangappa Mudali to fetch boiled cow's milk and sugar. When he brought this, each drank two cups. By now the bread and wine arrived from Pondichery, and at eleven he took his early meal; as his younger brother had still not arrived, he went to inspect the new fort built on the south side, which he had not seen before. He remarked, 'The work has been carefully done; but the rooms are too small. M. Dupleix was wanting in fore-thought to order such a building. It would have been healthier if the rooms had been larger. But if 16 cannon and 100 men were stationed here, 4,000 or 5,000 horse could be beaten and put to flight.'

Afterwards, the Company's merchants invited the Governor to visit their ware-houses. They showed him the chintz and coarse cloth,

etc., made there. The Governor then asked them what tolls were paid on them. I replied in the presence of the Villiyannallûr âmil, Rangappa Mudali, 'They collect great sums as customs; but duty should not be collected for Valudâvûr which is within the limits of Pondichery. Nothing was done about it in M. Lenoir's time. M. Dupleix used to say that M. Dumas would not remit the toll when Safdar 'Alî Khân, Chandâ Sâhib and other Nawâbs came here during the Maratha troubles; but he forgot about it afterwards. If the toll is removed, the people will be happy and trade will flourish in the town.' He replied that he would see about it when I produced an account of the duties. I said I would attend to it. But writer Rangappa Mudali's face fell and he went aside. The Governor being anxious about his younger brother not having arrived, returned to the pandal after inspecting various things.

I told M. Barthélemy, M. Boyelleau and M. Desfresnes that I would wait till the *commandeur* arrived at the pandal which had been erected for him, and that they could go to Arumpâtai Pillai's Choultry. The Governor asked what I had said. When they repeated my words, he said, 'True, Rangappan prepared all this for the *commandeur*, so it is but fair that he should wait and receive him.' Just then

news came of the *commandeur*'s approach, so writer Rangappa Mudali was at once ordered to go with music, dancers, etc., to receive him. The *commandeur* was accordingly brought to the pandal, by Appâvu, etc., with all marks of honour. The Governor and the Councillors embraced him with great joy and asked about his visit to Gingee, Villupuram, Tiruviti, etc., places. Writer Rangappa Mudali brought cloth of gold, a roll of silk, etc., worth 1,000 rupees as a nazar. The Governor's younger brother mentioned my Appâvu to the Governor as follows:—'He is very able, and guarded me day and night, his behaviour pleased me much. There is no limit to my affection for him.' He also said to me, 'Your younger brother's son is so clever and capable that I am highly pleased with him.' I replied, 'He is your servant who awaits your favour.' The Governor, his younger brother and others observed that he would be very fortunate. As it was noon all retired to Arumpâtai Pillai's Choultry to eat. I went to Villiyannallûr with Annâswâmi, Ayyâswâmi, Appâvu and others to take food and returned to Arumpâtai Pillai's Choultry at half-past four. The Governor was watching the amusements with his brother and the Councillors. I paid my respects. The Governor again remarked that I was one of the Company's family.

Vinâyaka Pillai gave cloth of gold, etc., as a present. The Governor after watching the fireworks for some time, set out at half-past eight with all marks of honour, and, having reached the Fort at nine, retired upstairs. When I took leave he said that I was much fatigued and that I had better rest and talk of business next morning. I took leave and came away with all marks of honour.

*Friday, [January 31].*<sup>1</sup>—This morning the Governor sent for me; I went accordingly. He said, 'I complained to Mr. Pigot, the Governor of Madras, about the unjust acts of Muhammad 'Alî Khân's people; so Mr. Pigot wrote to 'Abd-ul-wahâb Khân, the killedar and agent at Arcot, not to plunder our country, as a truce had been made between the English and French for 3 months from October 11, 1754, and continued for 18 months, for which time both parties should retain the countries they possessed and abide by the peace settled in Europe. Here is the letter. Write a tâkîd to him<sup>2</sup> in my name as follows:—"Having the welfare of the people at heart, we made peace from January 27, prescribing the limits of both the parties. But your people are transgressing their bounds and creating disturbances. Know by this that you must warn

<sup>1</sup> 22nd Tai, Bhava.

<sup>2</sup> i.e., 'Abd-ul-wahâb Khân.

your people, reading to them this tâkîd and ordering them to observe their bounds; if they transgress them, I and the English will become your enemies and your affairs will be in danger. Enclosed is the letter from Mr. Pigot, the Governor of Madras, from which you will know everything." Bring this written in French to be copied into the book.' I accordingly took Mr. Pigot's letter.

He then said, 'Your younger brother's son who went to Gingee with my younger brother is very clever, intelligent and capable. My brother has told me how carefully he managed everything, and I am much pleased. I do not think that even you could have managed as well as he.'

In return for the English soldiers who were released and despatched to Fort St. David, 167 stout picked Frenchmen, with some *mestice* and Topass servants, arrived here to-day.