

'That is not the way with Murtazâ 'Alî Khân alone, but is the nature of all the Muhammadans; M. Dupleix alone knew how to keep them in check. Now that you have begun, you will learn their nature and do what is necessary.' He replied, 'The Muhammadans are ungrateful, lying people who at once forget benefits.' For a quarter of an hour he talked of the Muhammadans, of Chandâ Sâhib, Nâsîr Jang and Razâ Sâhib. I said, 'Vellore fort, Chêtpattu and the Elavânasûr killa have been saved by your despatching troops; but none of these three people¹ will show you the least gratitude if they can help it; but, with your permission I will write to them of this matter.' The Governor replied, 'They are mean fellows, who will show no gratitude. What you have said is true, and you may write.' I then said that the amaldâr of Wandiwash had written that, on the arrival of a camel-messenger from Arcot, the commander of the troops attacking the Chêtpattu killa had marched away with his army. He only smiled and observed that Khair-ud-dîn Khân would do the same.

He then complained angrily that should disturbances arise, no cloth would come in as I had not warned the merchants.

¹ *i.e.*, Murtazâ 'Alî in Vellore, Nazîr Muhammad at Chêtpattu and 'Abd-ul-rahmân at Elavânasûr. For Nazîr Muhammad see Orme, *History*, Vol. II, p. 242.

FEBRUARY 1756.

*Sunday, February 1.*¹—I received a letter to-day saying that 40 or 50 tents had been pitched on the bank of the Devanâmpattanam river, that 40 or 50 more were being got ready, and that ten companies of the soldiers newly come from Europe—500 in all—with a mortar, two *bômbu*,² two 18-pounders, two 12-pounders and four or five guns *à minute* were making ready to march against Elavâsanallûr and Vellore.

I hear that when M. Saubinet passed by Gingee, he ordered the officers to ride at the head of their men and those who had no horses had to march on foot.³ This led to a quarrel between the officers and M. Saubinet, who (according to the report sent by the amaldârs at Gingee to M. Leyrit, the Governor and M. Barthélemy) has been stabbed to death. This man has been in service since M. Dupleix' time; M. Leyrit the Governor appointed him major; and he used to flog his soldiers mercilessly and make the officers keep their guards exactly according to the European fashion. The way in which he trained officers, soldiers and

¹ *22nd Tai, Yuva.*

² *Query*, howitzers.

³ *i.e.*, instead of travelling in their palankins.

Muhammadan sepoy for warfare, made them all tremble as at the sight of Yama.¹ Many soldiers who had lost their arms or legs, or received wounds in the loins, have been flogged by him to death. Thus many soldiers and sepoy have deserted for fear of being flogged by him, and jemadars of sepoy have given up their posts. Just as a dancing-master makes the actors dance to his orders, so he trained the soldiers and sepoy from sunrise to sunset, for ten months. He informed the Governor about the money given to M. Barthélemy's Râman by Pennâthûr Sâmâ Râo who was in charge of the foot, Mahâdêva Ayyan, Saiyid Husain, and other commanders; and he received three months' pay, which he promised to disburse. Now men say that all this only led to his being stabbed by the officers at Gingee, just as a lamp flares up before going out. In these three months M. Saubinet made 50,000 rupees; M. Barthélemy, since M. Godeheu's time, has been entering the number of sepoy under each jemadar as 400, instead of the real number of 200, and taking the money for himself; on the cavalry business and enlistment of troops, he has made three or four times as much, taking half their pay; in M. Godeheu's time the sepoy and troops received no pay for three or

¹ God of death.

four months, as M. Barthélemy had taken that as well as the pay of those who had left service; and in M. Dupleix' time, under Pâpayya Pillai's management, when Pennâthûr Sâmâ Râo was entrusted with the management of the country, he made money out of the maintenance of the troops. Altogether M. Barthélemy must have made more than five lakhs of rupees, and even his dubâsh Râman more than a lakh, as there are accounts to prove. As the Company had fallen on evil days, M. Dupleix, the Lion, departed, leaving all to act as they pleased. The Arumpâtai and other country-writers have made lakhs, as have also the Europeans in the several offices. If this is the case with the sepoy and cavalry management, how will it be with the rest? Thus the Company has been robbed of its wealth and reduced to beggary. Though M. Dupleix took all he could, and thus impoverished the Company, he suffered none else to rob. Of the Tamils, Pâpayya Pillai alone made much, and that, not by theft, but by other means. Men say these are signs of the times, and I have written accordingly.

I hear that M. Saubinet was stabbed yesterday.

Yesterday a cooly who was lying on the pial of a Chetti's house in the Chetti Street north of the Valudâvûr gate, was stabbed by

some soldiers and thrown down a well. Today the corpse was taken up and M. du Bausset, the *greffier* M. des Naudières, and the head-surgeon having examined the body, ordered it to be burnt. In their terror men ask what evil is portended by this injustice. I write accordingly. What must be will be. We shall see what befalls.

*Monday, February 2.*¹—This morning when I went to the Fort to see M. Leyrit, the Governor after his return from church with the Second and other councillors, officers, etc. M. Moracin, the chief of Masulipatam, M. La Selle and the others who had accompanied him, I, the Company's merchants, Vijayarâma Râjâ's people and other gumastahs, went and paid our respects to the Governor. When all had gone, M. Barthélemy, who was upstairs, came to me and said, 'M. Leyrit the Governor says that one of your relations may be appointed chief Choultry dubâsh in the place of Venkatâchalam your paternal uncle's grandson. You may therefore send any one you please.' I replied that the ceremonies would be finished by Wednesday, and that I would send some one on Thursday. 'Very well,' he said; 'M. Leyrit has given orders; and I have agreed that the name shall be entered in the accounts and the pay issued

¹ 23rd Tai, Yuva.

every month.' I thanked him, observing that I need say little as I had his and the Governor's favour. After his departure [].

*Tuesday, February 10.*¹—At seven o'clock this morning, I went to the Fort as the Company's merchants' cloth and the Yânâm cloth was to be sorted. M. Leyrit, the Governor, M. Bertholin and others were there. I gave M. Leyrit, the Governor, papers containing an account of the English and Muhammad 'Alî Khân at Arcot and Vellore, stating that the English had surrounded the fort of Vellore, raised batteries and prevented our French troops from approaching. The papers also say that the people of the Vellore fort are flying to Arcot, Sadras, Madras and other places, that Mîr Asad's wife has been placed under guard, that soldiers, powder, shot and other munitions of war are being sent from Madras and that Khair-ud-dîn Khân, who was at Tiruvannâmalai about to attack Mîr 'Abd-ul-rahmân at Elavânasûr, has returned to Muhammad 'Alî Khân at Arcot. To the English demand of 2 lakhs of rupees in ready money, Mur tazâ 'Alî Khân has replied that he can pay only one lakh in goods, and has sent a letter demanding speedy help from Pondichery, and agreeing to pay a lakh of rupees (besides 50,000 rupees

¹ 2nd Mâsi, Yuva.