

When I awoke at four o'clock this evening, I heard the following :—One of the shots that struck Fort St. David the day before yesterday exploded the powder-magazine killing many ; there was no fresh but only brackish water in the fort, so at nine o'clock this morning, the white flag was hoisted on the fort and the keys were brought out under a white flag and delivered up with the fort ; they had 300 men in the fort. A letter has been received reporting this, and M. Saubinet also brought the same news. M. Barthélemy and M. Boyelleau are going to Fort St. David. As no firing has been heard since nine o'clock, I think the fort must have been captured.¹

I hear that catamaran-people have brought news from Kârikâl that twelve ships flying the white flag had been sighted. I drove out and came home at seven.

*Saturday, June 3.*²—I did not go to the Fort this morning. I hear that M. Leyrit, the Governor, set out at four o'clock to meet M. Lery³ at Fort St. David.

I then went to the office in the flower-garden and, when there, heard that M. Boyelleau and others at Fort St. David were making

¹ The articles of capitulation are printed in Cambridge, *The War in India*, p. 128.

² 24th Vaigâsi, Bahudânya.

³ Presumably M. Lally.

lists of the goods found in the fort ; that the commandant of Fort St. David had been imprisoned and the rest made to sign paroles, and that M. Aumont had gone against Devikôttai with 1,000 men and three ships. At noon I came home, ate and lay down. Afterwards I heard that M. Lally was returning with his troops. So I got up and put on my gown. Hearing that Chiranjîvi Appâvu's wife was in labour, I told Gôpâlaswâmi to remain at home, but I myself set out by the Villianallûr Gate to meet M. Lally. Hearing that M. Guillard was also going, I first went to his house ; but he had driven out already. As it had begun to rain, I waited till the rain was over, and then went and waited with M. Guillard beyond Mêlugiri Pandit's Choultry. Vinâyaka Pillai came and reported that M. Lally was not coming, so M. Guillard returned home, telling me to wait at Mêlugiri Pandit's Choultry till eight o'clock. I did so and came home at nine, when Gôpâlaswâmi and Subbâ Jôsier told me that a second daughter had been born to Chiranjîvi Appâvu at ten minutes after eight to-night in *Dhanur*¹ *Lagnâ*. This news pleased me much.

*Sunday, June 4.*²—At Mêlugiri Pandit's Choultry this morning, I watched the people

¹ Sagittarius.

² 25th Vaigâsi, Bahudânya.

coming from camp with mortars, pillows, pestles of redwood, chairs and tables.

Harkaras tell me that Savarirâya Pillai has heard from camp that 60 lakhs' worth of property has been got in Fort St. David, besides an elephant [jhul?] set with precious stones, that two treasuries have still to be examined and that the spoil is great.¹ M. Lally is expected every minute. I listened to all this news.

After sunset a powder-box full of treasure was brought in a four-bullock cart, M. Leyrit coming behind. The bullocks drew the cart without effort, so I think the amount may be a lakh or a lakh and a half of rupees. When M. Leyrit approached the toll-gate, he heard the drums beating; but when he saw the loaded carts catching fire,² he ordered the torches to be put out and told the men to go gently. He then proceeded without lights. When I arrived home and enquired what treasure had been brought, the Marquis, who is one of M. Lally's councillors and is dwelling by the church opposite my house, said that the pagodas and rupees, etc., would be worth a lakh and a half of rupees, and that no

¹ Lally says 100,000 *écus* in money and as much in goods. (*Mémoire*, p. 53.)

² Probably what caught fire was the tilt of the cart made of palm-leaf.

inventory had yet been taken of the other things, but an account of the treasure alone had been written and signed. The European at M. Delarche's garden estimates the value at 1,25,000 rupees—a difference of 25,000 rupees.

I hear that M. Lally set out for Devikôttai with his troops yesterday afternoon after dinner.

*Monday, June 5.*¹—When I was at home this morning, at eleven o'clock a chobdar came and reported that M. Leyrit, the Governor, wanted me, so I set out for the Fort, and visited M. Leyrit who said, 'The things sent to Cuddalore must be brought back. Tell the Choultry-people and the Nayinâr to collect coolies.' I said that I would order the coolies in the town to be collected, and having taken leave, came home.

Afterwards I heard that a sloop had arrived from Fort St. David with Mr. Wynch, Governor of Fort St. David, and Mr. Sloper² the chief at Cuddalore and other councillors and officers—about 20 in all—who went upstairs and took coffee, and after giving their signatures were sent to the lodgings arranged in the old *Gouvernement*.

I drove out in the evening, and, returning home at seven, ordered the Choultry-people and the Nayinâr to impress coolies.

¹ 26th *Vaigâsi*, *Bahudânya*.

² *Sépar* in the transcript. He was Sea and Land Customer. There was no separate chief of Cuddalore.