

When M. Guillard was talking with me at the Fort, he reminded me of his desire to find a physician to treat his eyes. I replied, 'There is a clever one at Porto Novo, but I do not know whither he has gone owing to the troubles. I have already sent a man to him and as soon as he comes, I will send him.'

I have already written that terms of peace have been discussed between Makdhûm 'Alî Khân (Haidar Nâyakkan's brother-in-law) and M. Lally, who has been unable to visit the other as he was unwell. A salute of 21 guns was ordered to be fired on his entering the Fort and the same number on his departure, and the salutes were fired accordingly. M. Lally then returned after inspecting this and the Fort for some time.

*Friday, June 27.*<sup>1</sup>—After I went to the Fort this morning, M. Guillard also came. After some conversation I said, 'I have told M. Leyrit a dozen times already that, on account of the levy of taxes in the town and the seizure of the paddy stored here for food, people have been driven away and that the town will be ruined. He agreed with me. M. Courtin also admits it; and when I have mentioned it in your presence two or three times, you said I was right. I said all this

<sup>1</sup> 17th *Âm*, *Vikrama*.

because, ever since M. Lenoir's time, it has been the duty of the Company's *courtier* to attend to the business of the government, and give no room for complaint. I have only done my duty. Can I then be blamed? I only spoke thus because I thought that if the town were ruined, you would all have to sail away to Europe. Now men of any rank may enter the Fort on horseback accompanied with their roundels. But, when M. Lenoir and M. Dulaurens were managing affairs, a *sous-marchand*, rode into the Fort. Seeing this from the sorting-godown, M. Dulaurens called him, gave him many stripes with his cane, and then, calling the corporal of the guard, had the dog shut up in the dungeon; and M. Lenoir decided in writing that no one, be he councillor or *sous-marchand* should ride into the Fort or use a Company's horse without his leave, that the councillors entering in palankins should descend at the sorting-godown, and that none but the Governor should get down from his palankin at the *Gouvernement*. But in spite of this, have you not seen a scavenger and a Pariah boy, the former with the necessary-pot scarcely taken from his head, ride on two horses up to the *Gouvernement*, where they got down and went in? And no one questioned it.' When I spoke thus, he smiled and said that it was true.

M. Boyelleau then came, and he too talked about this. I then said, 'The town will never improve unless you enquire into its affairs. If not, it will go to ruin and you will have to sail away. There is no alternative. In M. Lenoir's time, when grain could not be had in the town, and you were a writer under M. Courton<sup>1</sup> at Yânâm, were not letters written to that place to get grain and nourish the town? Former Governors earned the glory of making the town, but now you are earning the infamy of ruining it.' We talked thus for about an hour and a half.

Afterwards the Chettis presented a petition to M. Leyrit complaining that, in Âdimûlam's affair, Ândâ Chetti had been unjustly imprisoned at the Choultry and beaten by M. Courtin. M. Leyrit read the petition and said that he would enquire into it. M. Courtin not having returned from the Choultry-court, although it was twelve, M. Leyrit dismissed the Chettis, telling them that M. Courtin should be asked about their business. I then came home.

I heard that M. Lally and Mysore Makdhûm 'Alî Khân had come to terms and that a council would consider them to-morrow.

<sup>1</sup> Guillard began his career in India by serving as a private writer under Courton, chief of Masulipatam and Yânâm. He was admitted to the Company's service by Lenoir. Cf. vol. iv, p. 285, n-2, *supra*.

I also heard that 500 Mysore horse, 500 foot, 2 guns, the master-gunner and Alagappa Mudali (Râmalinga Pillai's man) were going to occupy certain country. I shall learn the terms of agreement with the Mysoreans and write them.

I told M. Lenoir about Ândâ Chetti's affair, that though it was the Tamil custom to settle their caste disputes among themselves, M. Courtin had confined, bound and beaten Ândâ Chetti at the Choultry, and seeing that he had not committed theft, I could not imagine why he had behaved so unjustly. M. Lenoir promised to speak to M. Leyrit about it.

*Saturday, June 28.*<sup>1</sup>—When I went to the Fort this morning, Appu Mudali and Kandappa Mudali showed me their petition about the sepoys' affair and proposed as they had not been asked by M. Duplant about the tax, to withdraw it. I told them to do so and write another with details.

No Europeans had then come. But M. Courtin was summoned at half-past ten to be questioned about the Sôliya<sup>2</sup> Chettis' petition to M. Leyrit regarding Âdimûlam Chetti's and Ândâ Chetti's affairs. When M. Courtin came, M. Leyrit gave him the petition which he began to read. As it was then eleven o'clock, and I had not been sent for, I came home.

<sup>1</sup> 18th Âni, Vilerama.

<sup>2</sup> Cf. Thurston, *Castes and Tribes*, s.v.