

others complained that the French commander and Razâ Sâhib had levied about 30,000 rupees on their own authority. When M. Lally enquired under whose authority they had demanded the money, they replied that they had taken the amount as they had no money to pay the *sibbandis*. M. Lally asked how they had dared to levy money without his permission and demanded an account of what had been received and expended. It was found that the commandant had appropriated a certain amount, and the elder brother's son of Devanâmpattanam Venkatâchala Nâyakkan, the commandant's dubâsh, had kept the rest. Thereon the commandant was imprisoned, his property confiscated and another commandant appointed; the dubâsh was hanged in the public street, and Razâ Sâhib's man ordered to be arrested and brought in. As he was reported to have fled to Vellore, two horse-messengers were sent to Vellore to seize and bring him. What will happen remains to be seen.

*Wednesday, April 25.*¹—I heard yesterday that the gate-people at the Madras and Villiyannallûr Gates had been stopping those who passed saying that, as the Company had not issued pay, they were starving; some were

¹ 16th Chittirai, Pramâdhi.

threatened with naked swords, a few were beaten and some rupees were extorted at each gate, amounting in all to 40 rupees. To-day the drinking-vessels of women going to fetch drinking-water were seized, and only returned when four or five rupees had been paid. When the Second was informed of this, he ordered it to be reported to M. Leyrit the Governor, but, when this was done, the Governor said nothing. From sunrise to sunset, a few European writers and officers—seven or eight Europeans in all—went breaking into the houses in the Dancing-girls Street, the Kaikôlars Street, the Sêda Street and the Perumâl-kôil Street, etc., beating on the doors, cutting the male members with knives, and doing other indescribable things. The three troupes of Bommalâttam Pâpayyan and certain dancing-girls are secretly helping the Europeans. The state of things is growing worse. Till *Mâsi* last, the Europeans' dancing women kept within proper limits, but since *Panguni* they have broken all bounds. People say that, if the Europeans had not gone to camp, the situation would have been worse, for, had they been here, worse still would have occurred, and that therefore no one knows what yet may happen. Whether yet stranger things will come to pass, I must wait to learn.

*Thursday, April 26.*¹—I heard to-day that the Europeans had forced people passing the gate with drinking-water vessels to pay them money, and that, when Nârana Ayyangâr (Wandiwash Tiruvêngada Pillai's gumastah) was passing by Muchiya Nambulu's house with seven or eight others, one of the Europeans had drawn his sword and cut him in two, on which the rest had fled, but I did not hear whether any one else was killed.

¹ 17th Chittirai, Pramâdhi.

MAY 1759.

*Tuesday, May 1.*¹—Europeans say that, when M. Leyrit returned from church this morning, some catamaran-people from Kârikâl delivered to him at nine o'clock a letter from M. Porcher saying that 12 English ships had been sighted yesterday off Kârikâl. The Tamils say that the catamaran-people told them that they had seen the same in the afternoon. Thereon M. Leyrit wrote to the captain of the ship with the Comte d'Estaing on board², which sailed last night, but had not got far as the wind was contrary, warning him to be very careful as the English ships had been sighted off Kârikâl.

Afterwards I heard that M. Soupire had returned to Pondichery to-day from the camp at Arcot.

I also heard the following news:—Razâ Sâhib (Chandâ Sâhib's son) and 'Alî Naqî having been taken to task by M. Lally, have therefore come here from Wandiwash without telling anybody. After M. Soupire had taken away Razâ Sâhib's power over Arcot, he

¹ 22nd Chittirai, Pramâdhi.

² D'Estaing, as we have seen, had returned to Pondichery on parole. The French offered to exchange him for Nicholas Morse and other civilians seized during the siege of Madras at the Dutch factory of Sadras. The English declined this offer, as they denied the validity of the seizure of their people in a neutral factory; so d'Estaing proceeded to the Islands.

appointed one Râmalinga Pillai (Vinâyaka Pillai's man) to manage the affairs of that place, and imprisoned Razâ Sâhib's men at Arcot. Formerly Arcot was managed by a subahdar or by the Pâdshâh's mansabdar of 5,000 or 7,000 horse, but is now in the hands of the servant of one who supplies cattle, fowls, sheep, etc., to the troops¹. He is besides the son of a servant-woman. Such things happen in times of misfortune. When parchment money circulates in the place of gold, silver, copper, etc., it is no wonder that M. Lally has appointed that servant fellow, Râmalingam, to manage the Arcot affairs. In times of decay, order disappears, giving place to disorder, and justice to injustice. Men no longer observe their caste rules, but transgress their bounds, so that the castes are confused and force governs. One man takes another man's wife and his property. Everyone kills or robs another. In short, there is anarchy. Who among the low is lower than a Pariah beggar? and what worse can be imagined than for such a one to rule? Unless justice returns, the country will be ruined. This is what men say, and I have written it briefly.

*Wednesday, May 2.*²—I did not go out to-day, but I heard at ten that M. Leyrit, and the

¹ These were part of Vinâyakan's functions as *Arombâtai*.

² 23rd Chittirai, Pramâdhi.

councillors held a council at the Fort. I do not know why it has been held, but the following occurs to me:—M. Moracin's letter from Narsâpûr received here the evening of the day before yesterday says that the English have captured Masulipatam. Moreover the news of the sighting of the English ships off Kârikâl was received from Monsieur [Porcher] yesterday. I think that the council must have been held about this and to decide about the despatch [of ships]. If I learn anything, I shall write.

I heard from some Europeans this evening that the council had decided that writers and others (including the councillors) should do sentry-duty at the Fort, that guns should be mounted and kept loaded on the Fort-walls and on the sea-wall battery, that the necessary orders had been given to the master-gunner, and that, as English ships were off Kârikâl, the council had resolved what precautionary measures should be taken in case Pondichery should be attacked. I also hear that M. Guillard has been appointed as chief captain,¹ and that he is very pleased at it.

*Friday, May 4.*²—I hear that 100 French prisoners have arrived from Trichinopoly in

¹ *Sc.*, of the militia.

² 25th Chittirai, Pramâdhi.