

CHAP.  
XVI.

1746.  
He persists.

M. de la  
Selle  
appointed.

Governor  
inquires  
of diarist  
whether  
people of  
Madras are  
removing  
property.

can wait for a few days." M. de Bausset, however, would not consent to do this, and declined to serve any longer. Consequently, M. de la Selle was this day appointed in his stead.

The Governor sent for me to-day, and asked me whether the people of Madras were carrying away their property to places outside the limits of that town. I replied: "In the month of Panguni [March] last, on a rumour that a French squadron was expected to arrive very shortly, they set about moving some, but subsequently, in the month of Chittirai [April], a ship which left England last year arrived. This led them to infer that none from France could be on the way to India, for they argued that if any were, this one would not have reached Madras. They have consequently ceased to remove their goods." The Governor, being filled with wrath, exclaimed sharply: "They will find, ere long, that our ships are coming." He then bade me send 100 rupees for the expenses of the ship at Âlambarai.

The foregoing incidents took place this forenoon.

*Wednesday, 11th May 1746, or 1st Vaigasi of Akshaya.* — The sound of guns fired at Fort St. David was heard this morning, and the following news was made known in Pondichery. Commodore Barnet, who had command of the entire English fleet sent out for warlike operations, fell ill, and died at 5 on the evening of Tuesday, the 31st of Chittirai [10th May]. There was incessant firing of the guns of

Replics  
in the  
negative.

Wrath and  
remarks of  
Governor.

Death of  
Commodore  
Barnet.

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Marks of  
respect  
for him  
shown by  
English.

the fort there as a mark of respect for the departed Commodore. Not only those on land, but also those of the ships, were continually discharged. At 8 at night on the same day, his body was interred. From half-past 6 to quarter after 8, the guns, both ashore and afloat, kept up a continual fire. This was repeated next morning. Public opinion now says that the tide of victory will henceforward turn in favour of the French, as it has hitherto flowed on the side of the English. In support of this view the following occurrences are mentioned: the death of Commodore Barnet, the wreck, ten days ago, of an English ship at the mouth of the Coleroon, and the imprisonment at Devikottai of the captain and about a dozen sailors, who landing there, offended the people by slaughtering cows, and ill-treated them. These misfortunes, coming one after another, are said to point to a decline in the luck of the English. So also, when fortune is favourable to a nation, we hear that it captured a ship here, and a ship there; that it gained a victory in one place, and then one in another. When the scale turns we hear, so they say, that a defeat was sustained here, and another there; that this man was killed at one place, and that man at another. The people of both Madras and Pondichery, moreover, see in the fact of the English having withdrawn the charter from their Company, a sign of diminishing prosperity. They assert that the Goddess of Fortune has departed from Madras to take up her residence at Pondichery,

Public  
opinion as  
to turn in  
fortunes of  
French and  
English.

Grounds  
on which  
these based.

Goddesses  
of Fortune  
and  
Misfortune  
said to have  
changed  
places.

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Prepara-  
tions at  
Pondichery  
for war.

and that the Goddess of Misfortune has gone in her stead from here to dwell at Madras. Preparations for war are being actively made at Pondichery. Two hundred beds, with mattresses, pillows, sheets, and other appurtenances, are now being provided in addition to former supplies. The Governor has moreover ordered mattresses and sheets for the use of 4,000 men. Sheep, bullocks, and fowls, are being collected to serve for food. Firewood is also being stored. The ramparts facing the sea have been repaired, and the work of restoration is being pushed on with. Further, an incessant watch is maintained, both day and night. Seeing all these preparations going on, people say that the French ships may be expected almost directly. They pray God for their immediate arrival as a means of ensuring their safety. They say that as they have endured reverses for the past two years, they may look for a change of fortune in the future. The public voice never lies. Let us hope that God will protect the people. I have written what has struck me.

Popular  
views on  
the subject.Diarist  
finds  
Chinna  
Mudali and  
another  
interpreting  
a  
letter to  
Governor.News in  
this  
regarding  
various  
chiefs.

*Thursday, 12th May 1746, or 2nd Vaigasi of Akshaya.*—This morning, I went to the house of the Governor. Chinna Mudali, and Madanânda Pandit, were interpreting to him the contents of a letter sent from Arcot by Subbaiyan. This stated that it was the common talk that the carbuncle which Nawâb Anwar-ud-dîn Khân had on his back was healing, and that he was pronounced out of danger; that Muḥammad 'Alî Khân, the son of Anwar-ud-dîn

Khân, had marched to Kandanûr, and had fought with the Mahrâtta chief Bâpôji Nâyakkan; that victory rested with Muḥammad 'Alî Khân and the Nawâbs of Kandanûr and Cuddapah; that Bâpôji Nâyakkan had fled, and had encamped five miles from the field of battle; that three elephants, five or six camels, and ten horses were captured in the Mahrâtta camp; and that Arcot was now safe. The letter further stated that the Kârvêti Râjâ had sent me a horse, a sword, and a dress of honour. The Governor, I was told, asked them whether the Kârvêti Râjâ was a great man. To this they replied that he was considered to be as influential a personage as Yâchama Nâyakkan.\* The Governor is reported to have said: "Evu polagumuit†" meaning thereby "I am very glad to hear it." I gathered these particulars from what they subsequently said to me.

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that the  
Kârvêti  
Râjâ had  
sent gifts to  
diarist.Governor  
inquires  
touching  
him.Expresses  
satisfac-  
tion.

After this, Chinna Mudali, pointing to Malaiyappa Mudali, told me that he had heard that this man had been writing for the last two or three days, with closed doors, petitions or something else against him. "Now," he said, "what is he going to write? What more can he have to write, than that the decision in their case has been unjust? In this he is

Chinna  
Mudali  
tells diarist  
of report  
regarding  
Malaiyappa  
Mudali.

\* This was the Râjâ of Venkatagiri. Kârvêti was the present Kârvêtinagar Zemindari.

† This is the exact transliteration of the Tamil sentence. All attempts to disentangle it have failed. It seems probable that it is a corruption of some slang French expression; the first word being *Et vous*. The rendering of it is Ranga Pillai's.