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courteous terms: 'No harm will be done to the merchants of Madras,* and any offender found guilty of wrong doing will be punished by the Commander-in-Chief of the French fleet.' A letter to this effect was despatched by the camel courier."

Governo. sending for diarist informs him of receipt of letter from M. de la Bourdonnais and comments on conduct of English as stated therein.

As we were thus conversing together, the Governor summoned me, and said: "A letter from M. de la Bourdonnais was received last night. When our people marched into the Governor's garden at Madras, the English fired only about twenty or thirty guns, but the shot flew high. If the Governor lost his nerve, could not a councillor take his place? Was it becoming that the captain † of a ship should be invested with his powers, and be called upon to exercise the functions of a Governor? Is there any other example of such a height of folly? These men have brought infamy on the whole English race."

Which he characterises as the height of folly.

Diarist makes a reply flattering to Governor.

I observed: "They have disgraced their nation, and you have graced yours. Moreover, the fame of the French nation has, through you, spread as far as Delhi, and the French are spoken of night and day as possessing valour and prowess to a degree to which no other nation can lay claim. This is attributable

* Vide footnote at p. 284.

† M. Duplex was evidently under a misconception as to the position of Mr. Stratton, and was no doubt misled by the use of the words "Chief Captain" used in the reports perused by him, which he clearly took to mean a naval captain. Mr. Stratton was at the time of the capture of Madras a member of the Council there. See also Appendix (p. 410).

to your individuality, and you have thereby cast a permanent lustre on the name of your family."

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Who replies

He replied: "Rangappa; did I not tell you before that those who laughed then would afterwards weep, and that it was their last fit of laughter, whilst those who wept then would later on laugh? Has my prediction proved untrue?"

I answered: "Sir; did I not then tell you that your hopes would be realized, that you would acquire imperishable fame, that your name would be held in great esteem throughout Europe, as well as India, and that you would be appointed a Marshal of France, and raised to the highest rank in the kingdom."

Diarist again speaks flatteringly.

"True," replied he.

I added: "If you will not take offence at the liberty I take, I will mention a small incident which I remember."

"Not at all," he said: "Proceed."

I then continued: "This time last year, a Bráhman, referring to the circumstance that the ships had not arrived, assured me that in the current month of this year, the Governor would capture Madras, Fort St. David, and Cuddalore, and gather very great renown."

Tells Governor of a prophecy by a Bráhman that he would capture Madras.

"Was it a Bráhman who said this," he asked. "Yes, sir," I replied.

"No other class of men can bear comparison with Bráhmans in point of intelligence," he observed.

Governor remarks on intelligence of Bráhmans.

I continued: "Quite so. The Bráhman further said that when the attention of the King of France

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Diarist states that the Brahman foretold Governor would be created a Marshal.

And at Governor's request explains why he concluded that this was what was meant.

Governor thanks him.

Diarist informs him that his great deeds are the subject of songs.

Governor imputes this to him.

was drawn to these achievements, he would be so much gratified that he would appoint the Governor, a Marshal."

"How did the Brâhman come to know the title of 'Marshal,' " he exclaimed.

I replied: "What that Brâhman said was that the Governor was destined to be eminently fortunate, and that, when the news of the capture of the towns which I have mentioned reached the ears of the King, the latter would be so much pleased that he would favour him with rare presents, confer on him an exalted position, and keep him near himself; and that his career thenceforth would be one of marked distinction. It then struck me that the distinction referred to must be that of a Marshal, and I interpreted it as Marshal of France." This aroused joy in his heart, and he cried out, laughingly, "Many thanks: much obliged."

I said: "All your great deeds have been rendered into lays, and are being sung."

"Who is it that sings? Who is the originator of this?" he asked.

"The people have done this in excess of the joy which fills their heart," replied I.

He then observed: "You must have been the author of this. I imagine that you are accomplished in this branch of the fine arts. I now recollect the way in which you were wont to listen when attending musical parties here."

"I can pretend to but little musical knowledge," I replied.

"I know it too well to need to be enlightened by you" was his answer.

He then asked what the import of the songs was.

I replied: "They set forth, amongst other matters, how undauntedly and courageously you faced the days when no ships appeared here, and when enemies were overwhelming you; how the very mention of your name so terrified the English as to cause their bowels to fall out, how, within six months, you erected earth-works and fortifications on the beach which would have taken another person not less than three years, how you, having procured men-of-war from France, defeated and dispersed the English ships—sinking one and seriously damaging the rest, and how your heroic achievements have won the admiration of the Emperor of Delhi, and indeed of all European countries. I have heard that these deeds, and several others, are celebrated in the songs."

He exclaimed: "You must have caused these to be composed, and sung; for no others knew of all these matters."

He then retired into the room where his wife lay, and in consultation with her, sent word through Nârâyana Pillai, to the minstrels to attend and sing before them. In obedience to this order, Nârâyana Pillai brought Kastûri Rangaiyan and Venkata Nâranappa Aiyar. The Governor however

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Conversation on the subject.

At request of Governor diarist states what the songs contain.

He again imputes them to diarist.

After consultation with his wife directs a performer before them.

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But
defers it to
next day.Narayana
Pillai
relates
conver-
sation
between
him and
Governor
regarding
the songs.Reply of
diarist.The
minstrels
summoned
by order of
Governor.The
audience
before
which they
performed

put off the party to the following day, as his wife was then sleeping.

Upon this Nārāyaṇa Pillai said to me: "The Governor asked me some questions regarding the songs. I told him that some Brāhman songster or other had entertained us with them at a musical performance at your house, and that several of the townspeople were reported to be learning them by heart. This piece of news made the Governor merry beyond measure. The state of Madame Dupleix's feelings was similar. He asked me whether the songs were in Telugu, or Tamil, to which I replied that they were in Telugu. He then inquired whether they could not be composed in Tamil. I answered that I would consult you."

I pointed out to him that if the songs were composed in Tamil, they could not be sung in Arcot, Mysore, and Golconda, but that if a Tamil rendering of them was required, a performance in that tongue could be arranged for in a week. With these remarks I bade him adieu.

I then went home, ate my dinner, and was about to lie down for a rest, when the singers told me that they were summoned by the Governor and his wife, and that two peons had come. I then instructed them, at some length, as to how they should conduct themselves in the presence of Europeans, and bade them go.

The musicians were taken into the house of the Governor where he, his consort, his sister-in-law, and

the wife of Pedro Mousse, were assembled. A carpet was spread for them to sit upon, and they were asked to proceed. As the songs were poured forth by the minstrels in all their melodious grandeur, two or three European ladies translated them into Tamil to Madame Dupleix, who in turn rendered them into French to her husband. They all enjoyed the performance very much. It was mentioned in the song that two of the French ships captured by the English had been sold by the latter to the Dutch, and that the French had addressed a remonstrance to the Dutch, and wrung from them an agreement to refund the value of these. The Governor desired that this should be so altered as to convey the meaning that the French, by way of a penalty, had demanded and received 15,000 pagodas from the Dutch. He further suggested that some lines should be added to commemorate the circumstance that in an engagement between the English squadron, and the French country ship *Pondichery*, the captain of the latter, M. [Puel] discharged a cannon shot which inflicted a wound in the back of the British Commodore Mr Barnet and eventually caused his death.* Certain other additions were also mentioned by him, and he desired the minstrels to attend again, and sing once more the song as revised. The performance aroused in the hearts of the audience intense

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Translated
to Gov-
ernor
by Me.
DupleixContents of
the song.Governor
desires
certain
alterations.Directs
singers to
attend
again
to render
the song as
revised.

* This appears to be without the slightest foundation in fact.

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Pleasure
of the
audience
at the
perform-
ance.

pleasure, and a flow of spirits to a degree beyond all description. They wished some other words inserted in the song, and asked the singers to have it altered as directed, and to come again, and give another rendering. They were very charmed with it, laughed, and made merry: their delight was beyond measure.

Wednesday, 21st September 1746, or 9th Purattâsi of Akshaya.—Letters from Madras were received this morning at 9, by runners. Some of these were addressed to the Governor, and a few to the members of Council. I also had a letter from my brother, the contents of which I give below . . . *

Thursday, 22nd September 1746, or 10th Purattâsi of Akshaya.—At 3 this afternoon, a letter came by mail from Madras to the Governor. As he was then out for a drive on the beach, it was taken to him by a peon. On perusing it, he was highly pleased. He then went to the custom-house, and summoning Râmachandra Aiyan, who alone was there at the time, communicated to him the news that the French captured Fort St. George yesterday, and had hoisted the white flag on the citadel. He next ordered that guns should be fired in honour of the victory. As the gunners and all other European officers had left the place, it being then their dinner time, there were none there but the Europeans who mounted guard, and they fired twenty-one guns.

Letter
to the
Governor
from
Madras.Intimates
capture of
Fort St.
George.Governor
causes
salutes to
be fired.

* Blank in original.

The Governor afterwards sent peons to the houses of the Councillors, and men of rank, to communicate to them the news. He also sent one to me. All the chief officials immediately assembled at the Governor's house, and I, too, went to the levée, presented him with . . . ,* and congratulated him on the success of the French arms. He told us, with happiness depicted in every feature, that Fort St. George fell into the hands of the French yesterday, i.e., Wednesday, 21st September (9th Purattâsi), at noon, that the white flag was then planted on the walls, that the Governor and Deputy Governor of Madras, together with the officers of the English Company, had been made prisoners, and that the French officers had established themselves there. He was so much overwhelmed with joy that he proceeded, with all his co-administrators, to the fort, and entered the church to attend a thanksgiving service. When the party took their seats in the stalls, the guns fired a salute, and the service proceeded amidst the ringing of the bells in the fort, those of the church of the Capuchins, of that of St. Paul, and of the . . . † church opposite to my house. When the service had come to an end, the Governor, waving his hat in his hand, shouted *Vive le roi!* The Europeans in the church and fort, all took up the cry, and shouted *Vive le roi!* The whole fort resounded with joyous acclamations. A salute of

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Announces
publicly
the news.And that
Governor,
etc., made
prisoners.Thanks-
giving
service
held.Subsequent
proceed-
ings.

* Blank in original.

† Blank in the original. It was the church of the Missions Etrangères.