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1746.
Grounds
for the
opinion
expressed
by him.

either procure, or pay, the ransom fixed. There is, therefore, hardly any chance of our having to relinquish the fort. Should they offer to give a bill on the Company in England for the amount, such a proposal will not be entertained, as drafts tendered by persons in captivity are invalid. Such a course would not be unprecedented, for the English themselves held this view in a parallel case in their own country, and we will not permit ourselves to be imposed upon, by accepting a bill from them."

He states
that M.
Panon,
alone, is not
to go to
Madras.

So said M. Miran, who also informed me that of the persons whom I have already mentioned, M. Panon, alone, has been directed by the Governor not to proceed to Madras.

I received, this evening, a letter addressed to me by Kandâl Guruvappa Chetti, which ran as follows:

News
regarding
the future
movements
of M. de la
Bourdon-
nais.

"M. d'Espréménil told his interpreter Kandappan that M. de la Bourdonnais would leave for Goa, in the course of five or six days, after making over the fort to M. d'Espréménil, and he directed him to have a table, and other articles of furniture, ready. This was communicated to me by Kandappan, who also told me that M. d'Espréménil purposed to write direct to the Governor, and have your brother Tiruvêngadam recalled. If you agree to this, I shall cause the necessary steps to be taken. I request to be favoured with a reply, in communication with Tiruvêngadam."

And the
probable
recall of
Tiruvên-
gadam.

Although my brother is thirty-four or thirty-five years old, he has no desire to acquire wealth, and no ambition to figure conspicuously in the service of the Company. He is, further, too retiring to hold any intercourse with Europeans. Far from accusing him, however, I can only worry myself with the thought that God has created him thus, and blame my own ill-luck. The young men of these days, become, from their fifth year, thoroughly filled with aspirations. The great desire for employment, coupled, as it is, with a strong craving to acquire wealth, that is evinced by them is quite extraordinary, and is beyond one's comprehension and powers of expression. The very opposite to this, my brother—who is hard on thirty-five—although naturally possessed of the gifts of high culture, excellent parts, guarded temper, winning manners, handsome presence, and fortunate birth, is not blessed with the courage and spirit of enterprise which are indispensable to raising oneself to distinction. It is this defect that induces him to cast aside all aspirations to greatness, and to prefer to remain at home in obscurity. This warp in his mind I attribute to the weak and fruitless star which, according to my horoscope, will cast its shadow over me for some months to come. I cannot but impute to this circumstance his desire to resign his post in that city of Kubêra [The God of wealth], which has recently come under our rule, and to return empty-handed. This bears out the predictions of astrologers that

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Remarks of
diarist
with re-
spect to his
brother.

Contrasts
him with
others of
his own
age.

And be-
wails his
short-
comings.

Which he
attributes
to his
[diarist's]
evil star.

And regards
as bearing
out certain
predictions
of the
astrologers.

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my career, up to my thirty-eighth year, will not be marked by success. I entertain no doubt as to the truth of their statements, and shall, therefore, not lay any blame at his door.

Ship sent to Madras to take cargoes of those damaged.

This day, a ship sailed for Madras, to take on board, so report said, the cargoes of the vessels which suffered from the storm.

The Deputy Governor has been absent from the Council for the last three days, apparently on account of indisposition.

Friday, 21st October 1746, or 8th Arppisi of Akshaya.—To-day, I did not pay a visit to the Governor, and remained at the areca-nut store-house. He lay in bed until half-past 8, after which there was a meeting of the Council, at which he had to preside. As soon as this was over, he retired to his chamber, where he remained writing letters.

Interpreter to MM. de la Bourdonnais and Villebague visits diarist.

During the time that I was at the areca-nut store-house, Kudaikkâra Nainiyappan, the interpreter of MM. de la Bourdonnais and de la Villebague, who had accompanied them to Madras, visited me. I greeted him, asked when he arrived, and whether his masters were well. I then questioned him about the recent storm at Madras, and its effects; and his reply coincided with what has already been recorded. After alluding to the spoliation of Madras, he said to me as follows: "M. de la Bourdonnais has deputed me to pack up the stuffs which you caused to be manufactured for him. As soon as he gave me instructions to this effect, I requested your brother

Conversation with him.

He tells diarist what occurred regarding certain goods.

to intimate them to you. Kandâl Guruvappa Chetti informed me that he had received a reply for communication to me, and that you had stated in it that one half of the goods ordered was in readiness, and that the other portion could be easily completed, and would be delivered towards the close of the month of Tai [January] next. Considering it, however, inadvisable to give so curt an answer to a European, I told M. de la Bourdonnais that all the stuffs could hardly be ready so soon, as the weather was rainy, and the money for the investment had been advanced only recently; and I pointed out that the result of hurrying matters would be that the fineness of the material, and the dyeing of it, would be affected. He then suggested that they should, at any rate, be finished by the time that he left for Mascareigne, which would be in the month of Tai [January]. He has written on the subject to M. Dubois, who has therefore sent for you in connection with it. You need not, however, trouble about the matter. I will make the necessary arrangements to have the stuffs ready, within the prescribed time." I thanked him, and let him depart.

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I then wrote two letters; the one to Madras, and the other to Chingleput, and returned home, at noon.

After I had rested, I went, in the evening, to the washermen's quarter, made inquiries concerning bleached cloths, and then proceeding to the laundry, ordered that the cloths should be carefully pressed

And says that he will arrange everything connected with them.

Diarist visits the washermen's quarter, and gives certain orders.