

This morning Arumpâtai Pillai and Vinâyaka Pillai paid their respects to the Governor with a present of 100 pagodas. As this day he has received and put on the cross of St. Michel, men played on vîna's and trumpets when he dined at noon. When they finished dinner, when dessert was served, and when they rose from table, salutes of twenty-one guns were fired.

In the evening we also had fireworks, with much hanging of garlands and setting up of plantain trees, and made merry.

At half-past five this morning three volleys and three salutes of twenty-one guns were fired.

When I was speaking with the Governor, he asked, 'Have you not yet sent the letter to Monsieur Delarche at Conjeeveram?' I said I would hasten it.

Meanwhile a priest, Père Hyppolite, of the Capuchins, appeared, and said, looking at me, 'Rangappan has disappointed us.' The Governor asked him, 'How?' He answered that I had given sugar among all the houses of the Hindus, and in the European quarter also, but given none to the Christian converts. The Governor pouted and said, 'Is that all the matter?' The priest, seeing it, said, 'He may of course do as he will with his own; but our people being envious told me this story.'

Monsieur Mathieu, thereon, said I had given sugar throughout the length and breadth of the town; that he had been deafened by the sound of my trumpets, and even his slave-girl, who went to

look, got a handful. On this the company burst out laughing.

*Saturday, April 8.*¹—This is the news of the day:—

A European fiddler of the Governor's,² having double-loaded his gun, shot himself at four this evening. It is said that when Mahfuz Khân came here on the 26th or 27th of February about the peace, this man stole the younger Miran's³ hat and till yesterday kept it hid. But then he got it valued and gave it to a man to sell. But when the man showed it for sale the younger Miran recognised his hat and asked, 'How came you by it?' He pointed out the fiddler, who was called and asked the same question. He said he had got it from a hawkker, whereon the case was reported to the Second.⁴ Then the brokers were called together

¹ 29th Panguni, Akshaya.

² For Dupleix' love of music, see Cultru, p. 138. Music at dinner, however, seems long to have been considered essential to a Governor's dignity. Fryer at Bombay mentions the trumpets that 'usher in his courses and soft music at the table.' For an early example of a fiddler in Bengal, see *Hedge's Diary*, ii. 217.

³ Appointed 'Sous-commis' in 1740. His brother, who was of Council and Mint-Master, died in 1748. The younger Miran was often employed in voyages to Achin and the Eastwards, but Dupleix says contemptuously 'du reste assez borné et sans ouverture d'esprit.' *Etat général des employés en 1750 (Ministère des Colonies, C 2 15.)*

⁴ Ranga Pillai calls him the *chinna dorai*, the little lord, in contradistinction to the *Doraigal* or Governor. The Pondichery Council consisted of the Governor, the Second, the first, second, etc., councillors, and certain other supernumerary and honorary councillors. The Second always presided in the Choultry Court (see *ante* p. 37). At this time the Second was Alexandre Legou. In the previous volumes *chinna dorai* has been translated 'Deputy Governor.'

and the fiddler was ordered to point out the one who had sold him the hat. He answered, 'He is not here but there are others; I will point him out to-morrow.' Therefore it was ordered that the rest were to appear this evening, and everyone went home. But the fiddler thought how he had always been an honest man, and had been treated with kindness by the Governor; but now would be punished and dishonoured. So he took the matter to heart and resolved for this trifle to take away his life,—such was his fate. As by killing himself he proved himself to be guilty, the Governor ordered that his body should be dragged at the cart's tail through the streets and then cast outside. As it was too late to-day, it was ordered to be done to-morrow.

*Sunday, April 9.*¹—This is the letter that I sent this day to the Râjâ of Malabar and the superscription of it was thus:—The Possessor of Happiness, the Lord of many lands, the Sun among princes, the Lion among Kings, the Treasure-house of Light, Mahârâja Râja Sri Udaya Mârtânda Râjâ.² The petition of Ânanda Ranga Pillai, who humbly bows. By your favour till now I have lived in safety at Pondichery. I pray to be informed of your victories, your glory and your happiness. I have

¹ 30th Panguni, Akshaya.

² Mârtânda Varmâ, Râjâ of Travancore, reigned from 1729 to 1758, and greatly extended his territories, even at the expense of the Dutch, who were much at war with him. See Galletti's *Dutch in Malabar*.

read and understood my lord's letter to the Governor-General Mahârâjâ,¹ and I have heard the words of the pandit, your Court poet. The Governor has written to the Chief of Mahé according to your letter, as my lord may have heard. For the rest, when we send your Court poet back we will send news by him, and he shall have a letter for the Chief of Mahé. Your Lordship will hear all further news from him. Let me hear of your welfare and how I can serve you.' This letter I sealed and sent.

*Monday, April 10.*²—This, the first day of the new year, being the first year of the cycle, begins with the first *tithi*, the first *yôgam* and the first *karana*.³ Men expect therefore the new year to be fortunate.

This is the news of the day:—Of the English ships that arrived on March 12 or 13, three or four with one or two sloops have till now been lying near here, between this and Madras, in order to seize merchants' ships coming here from the northward, carry them to Fort St. David and there sell their cargoes. Thus they have prevented goods from being brought here. To-day they all sailed towards Fort St. David, but two have returned and are lying one to the north and the other to the

¹ The diarist does not trouble to write out the complimentary epithets bestowed upon Dupleix.

² 1st Chittirai, Prabhava, Constellation Asvini.

³ For an explanation of these terms the reader may refer with advantage to Diwân Bahâdûr Swâmikannu Pillai's *Indian Chronology*, Madras, 1910.