

As the Second was at the Fort, I went thither this morning. I was speaking with him till half-past eleven, and despatched the things required for the camp. Meanwhile a Europe frigate¹ came to anchor in the road, and the Captain came ashore at ten. She has been [] on her passage. The Captain says that twenty Europe men-of-war are coming, and that we shall have good news in five or six days; but he said nothing more definite. We shall learn all later on.

The Second went home from the Fort at half-past eleven. The drums did not beat nor did the guard turn out on his departure, for he has dispensed with such honours as all the garrison have gone to camp and the Fort is guarded only by the Councillors' writers and old men, who have been armed with muskets.

The Governor and M. Paradis arrived unexpectedly at half-past four this afternoon, with a guard of fifty European horse, a standard-bearer and a kettle-drum. This was because the Captain who arrived this morning went off to camp at Muttirusa Pillai's Choultry to see the Governor without his despatches, and, as they have to be read in Council, the Governor has come here. After the despatches had been read, he returned to camp at half-past five, with his guard. The news brought by the Europe letter is [].

¹ She was *La Cibèle*. Her news must have been only the arrival of Bouvet at the Isles and the departure of Albert's fleet for the Indies.

*Wednesday, January 17.*¹—At seven this morning, after my cold rice, I went to the Fort, and while I was speaking with the Second, it was reported that some ships were in sight. With the help of a telescope they were made out to be six ships and a sloop², showing English colours. Seven guns were fired at once from the corner battery. The Governor heard them when he was beyond Tukkanâmpâk-kam, and, knowing what they meant, at once ordered his troops and baggage to retreat. He himself arrived at Pondichery at half-past eleven, with M. Paradis and fifty horse. The soldiers and the baggage came in parties one after the other. He did not persevere and see what could be done in spite of the ships' arrival; and we must believe that the English are destined to keep Fort St. David. M. Dupleix should have considered all possibilities before he set out, and has shown little foresight in this affair. He believed everything that Madame's spies told her; and so the master himself has gone out and returned ingloriously from Tukkanâmpâk-kam. When M. de Bury and M. de Latour were sent, they entered the enemy's bounds, seized the batteries, occupied the Company's Garden, plundered Tiruppappuliyûr, and drove the enemy into Cuddalore; and then, when those in the Fort were flying to their ships and were about to set sail, the French

¹ 7th Tai, Prabhava.

² On January 17th Griffin arrived at Fort St. David with the *Princess Mary*, *Winchester*, *Pearl*, *Bombay Castle*, and *Bonetta* sloop.

retreated. But now, without even doing so much as that, the master himself went out and has come back from Tūkkanâmpâkkam, why no one knows. Two days before he set out, I received a cadjan letter, saying that the Commodore had been asked to return with his squadron of five or six ships, that he was sailing hither, and that 500 soldiers would soon arrive on board a ship. When I reported this, he answered, 'Your news is false. The Commodore has written that he is sailing with his squadron to the northward, that he cannot return, and that the garrison in the Fort must do the best it can.' Besides this, he said that Mr. Morse had been consulted in consultation and that he had advised the Fort to be surrendered as Madras had been, since there was no other means of safety, in consequence of which the English were already removing their goods. The Governor did not pause to consider whether Mr. Morse was likely to have said such a thing or not, but, relying altogether on Madame's news and believing it to be entirely true, he marched against Fort St. David inconsiderately, and inconsiderately returned. Everyone is continually making jests at his expense, and indeed it is plain that none can earn respect who follows a woman's counsel. [

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*Friday, January 19.*¹—To-day the detachment, which came from Madras with M. Goupil² and other

¹ 9th Tai, Prabhava.

² Captain of Grenadiers.

Europeans, returned thither; also the frigate which brought news of the Europe ships was ordered to sail to meet them and accompany them hither.

*Saturday, January 20.*¹—To-day []
peons arrived from Vêttavalam with two horsemen. They were assigned batta and quarters.

I got news from Dêvanâyaka Chetti of Porto Novo that the Kârikâl detachment has returned thither², but that the English have sent a boat and seized the four sick men that were left behind at Porto Novo. I reported this news to the Governor.

I will now enter the camp news that Appu Mudali (who accompanied the troops) sent me daily from the 14th instant. *January 14.*—To-day the preparations were completed and the troops marched to Ariyânkuppam. They were at once drawn up to the sound of the drum; M. Paradis, M. Pichard³, and one or two other Europeans were proclaimed as the commanders, and the troops were ordered to obey them as such. They were halted at St. Paul's Church, and horse were sent out to see whether any

¹ 10th Tai, Prabhava.

² Under Villeon. Apparently he marched overland to Porto Novo and, there hearing of Dupleix' retreat, withdrew to Kârikâl. *Le Riche to Dupleix*, January 19 and 20, 1748. (*P. R.—No. 53.*) Cf. p. 328 *infra*.

³ A man of this name was appointed to the Company's service in 1741 and was wishing to resign in 1747 (*Compagnie au Cons. Sup.* November 25, 1741, *P. R.—No. 5*, and *Cons. Sup. à la Compagnie*, January 31, 1747, (*P. R.—No. 7*). He subsequently distinguished himself in the siege of Pondichery as lieutenant of Dragoons. (Nazelle, *op. cit.* 179 and 341). I conjecture him to be the person here mentioned; but, if I am right, he must have been recognised as an officer merely, not as one of the commanders.