

MAY 1748.

*Tuesday, May 7.*¹—I went to the Governor this morning and reported to him the choultry news. There is no news worth writing. []

The following is what Ammana Pandit of Tinnevely wrote to me in his letter received to-day:—
‘When Muhammad ‘Alī Khān² heard at Manapârai of the death of Mīr Ghulām Husain on the afternoon of Monday [April 22], the tenth day after the full moon, he marched at once but is now halted near Tinnevely.’

As soon as I had read the letter, I reported the news to the Governor. He said, ‘Ranga Pillai, here is a chance of making some money.’³ Constant warfare has stopped all trade for the last four years; I have not made a cash profit, but have had to spend much. You know what pains and trouble I took to capture Madras; and while others profited, I did not get a cash. You know all this. You must do all you can in this matter. If you can get me some money, I will never forget your services.’ I replied, ‘Sir, I am your slave. You know what efforts I have made for the last six or seven years to obtain profit for you. For your great kindness

¹ 29th Chittirai, Vibhava.

² This is the well-known second son of Anwar-ud-din; at this time he was managing Trichinopoly, Madura, etc.

³ Apparently an abrupt change of subject. Ranga Pillai omits to say what this great chance was.

to me, I am devoted heart and soul to your interests. You know that whenever you have wanted money I have always obtained it for you, and I need not remind you of it. This is a very good opportunity to obtain a large sum, if you will be pleased to do as I suggest; and I will see that you gain on every year.’ When I said this, the Governor replied, ‘Up to now, have I acted on your advice or not? I shall do the same now and in future.’ I replied respectfully, ‘God will favour us in this affair.’ He answered, ‘You have acted so till now, and you will do the same in future. I know well that you never look to your own gain but always to mine.’ I replied suitably, and came away.

*Friday, May 10.*¹— []

] Before he came, the right-hand caste people formed a great crowd and stood before the Governor. M. Cornet was there also. The Governor asked me who they were, and I said that they were the right-hand caste people. He then asked why they had come. I said, ‘Muttu Ulagappa Chetti, grandson of the Company’s merchant Cuddalore Kumarappa Chetti, rode yesterday on a white horse to the festival at Pudupêtai. When he returned, he rode it a certain distance and then put his daughter on it. Only the right-hand castes may use a white horse, a white umbrella, white gown and white flag. The left-hand

¹ 1st Vaigāsi, Vibhava.

castes may not use them. This is the practice throughout the land. Therefore, he has done what is forbidden. You should enquire into it.' I also told him what had happened at Fort St. David and Madras¹. Thereon he told me to send for Muttu Ulagappa Chetti and said, 'I will enquire into the rest to-morrow. Send him to prison.' Thereupon Muttu Ulagappa Chetti was put in prison, and the right-hand caste people took leave and departed.

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*Wednesday, May 22*².—When I went to the Governor this morning, I reported to him the choultry news and then related the contents of Shaikh Ahmad Sâhib's letter from Porto Novo, as follows:—'Your French people have seized by force some of the Dutch towns. I hear that thirty ships have appeared off Batavia, and that Imperial and English ships are coming to help them against the French. Your ships will arrive in accordance with my constant prayers, and our enemies will always be defeated. What greater joy is there than this? God will bless us with still greater happiness in future.' On hearing this, the Governor said, 'The Dutch are betraying

¹ The right and left-hand castes were always having disputes over their respective privileges. See, for example, at Madras, Love's *Vestiges*, ii, pp. 142-148 and 419-420. There was a very troublesome dispute of a similar nature at Fort St. David in 1740, involving the murder of a woman and the temporary secession of a part of the inhabitants. *Fort St. David Cons.* 1740, April 23, 24 and 26: August 29 and 30: also *Letters from Fort St. George* 1740 (Madras to Fort St. David of September 12).

² 13th Vaigâsi, Vîbhava.

their own weakness. They are so alarmed at what has happened in Europe that all can see how weak they are.' I replied, 'Our capture of Madras has terrified and confused the whole country. Moreover Nawâb Anwar-ud-dîn Khân, the lord of their countries, and Mahfuz Khân, were both driven back to Arcot, victory thus being added to victory, as miraculously as though a gold flower should give forth scent. Velipâlaiyam,¹ on the outskirts of Negapatam, has been pulled down and all the houses near the fort have been razed to the ground. All the cannon in the batteries at Velipâlaiyam have been carried into the Fort. The merchants of the town, and the rich men from Trichinopoly and Tanjore who went thither to make money, are alarmed and have fled to Jaffna, Udaiyârpâlaiyam and Ariyalûr. They would fear to touch even a crow from Pondichery or Kârikâl. They are like people on the outlook for ships from the tower of Pûduveli temple. At Negapatam a man used to be able to get crores of money, but now he will not find a hundred pagodas. I am told that they have sent away all their wealth. Those who have been there say that the gates are shut and only a wicket left open² and there are constant rumours of the arrival

¹ I.e. the town outside the walls—the 'voor-stad' of Dutch travellers. See for instance, Nieuhoff, p. 112.

² Negapatam was well-known for the constant precautions taken. 'You know what a bother it is to get in or out of this town; no garrison is better guarded: even the lame, blind and halt are hardly admitted.' *Madame Dumont to Moracin* [1762]. (Madras Military Bundles.)