

When M. Miran left Achin, he brought with him a man-monkey such as used to be brought from Achin and Malacca; but he left it behind at Kârikâl and hastened hither, on hearing of his elder brother's death. M. Le Riche sent it to Chidambaram to be brought here. Mudâmiah of Chidambaram sent it in to-day by ten or twelve peons. When the Governor heard of this, he asked for it, and so M. Miran gave it him. It takes food with its hand like a man, and like a man it lies down to sleep. It will take a cup and drink from it; and if a wet cloth is given to it, it will wring it out in its hands. The Governor watched it with interest, and wanted others to see it too.

The Governor turned and asked me why the ships had come here and why they had gone away again. I said, 'Between half-past nine and half-past eleven or twelve on the night of Thursday, June 20, I heard twenty-two guns,<sup>1</sup> and I reported this to you the next morning. You asked me what I thought, and I told you that it must be either our ships or theirs; that if they had been English ships, the people of Fort St. David and Cuddalore would not have removed their money to Porto Novo and other places; that they had fled in great confusion to Tiruviti, Panruti, Porto Novo and Venkatammâl-pêttai, leaving even their children behind; and that

<sup>1</sup> In the night of June 9/20, the *Lively* came in and reported that she had been chased by 9 strange sail. Griffin was ashore at the Garden House, and did not get aboard till 4 A.M. next morning.

it appeared that our ships had arrived. I suggested that our ships could not easily land their silver here and that they had therefore gone to Madras, and would soon send news after unloading.' He angrily replied, 'I thought you had more sense! How absurd! Why should they go to Madras in the north when there is Kârikâl to the south?' I answered that I supposed the English ships which were here had sailed northward expecting our ships to go to Madras; but he again asked why they should not have remained near Kârikâl. I said, 'Ships were sighted off Kârikâl, and the English may have sent a ship out to sea, which returned without sighting an enemy; but now they have received news and so sailed northwards this morning,'—'But,' he responded, 'that can't be true. There must be something else.' When I said that I could think of nothing else, he went away angrily.

Then a hundred of 'Abd-ul-rahmân's sepoy, with eighty or ninety European and Muhammadan horse, were sent to Madras under M. d'Auteuil, M. Bussy, and others. I then went to the nut-godown. I was told that the Governor had sent for me again. When I went, he asked me if it was true that Linga Chetti and others had removed their goods. I replied as before, and told him that news would come to-day or to-morrow that our ships had reached Madras, and that silver and other goods had been landed. He frowned and declared that no ship had been sighted.

When we were thus talking, he asked me about the petition which I had said would be presented by Āsārappan's wife. I replied that they would hear mass on Sunday morning, write the petition, and deliver it in the evening. He told me to see that it was received. I said that I would do so and went back to the nut-godown.

Again the Governor sent for me, touched upon the same subject and asked if I thought that the ships were really ours. Then he thought a little and went into his room. I believe he thinks that English ships sailed by out at sea while those in the roads sailed close in shore. I replied, 'I do not think so, because otherwise the gardens and walls at Negapatam would not have been demolished. Besides why should Linga Chetti and others at Fort St. David remove their goods, wives and children, and why should the whole of Cuddalore be in confusion? For these reasons, I think the ships are ours, though God alone knows. And we must believe this, because many say that a fortunate time awaits us, beginning in June or July and increasing daily, and adding to our welfare. So these ships must be ours.' I added all that I have written above, but he retired into his room and I came home.

I came home, had my bath, ate my food and was washing my hands, when the Governor sent me a note by a Company's peon. This was at half-past two. It said, 'News has come that eight

ships and two sloops have arrived from Europe at Madras and that they are lying at anchor there. I wish to speak to you about it.' I gave a turban, worth a pagoda, and a mouthful of sugar to the Company's peon who brought the good news, and sent him away. Before I could walk to the Governor's, he had already sent a runner to recall the guards, European horsemen and sepoy's under M. d'Auteuil, etc., who left this morning for Madras. As soon as the letter with the news of the ships' arrival reached him at half-past one to-day, he ordered the bells in the Fort Church, in St. Paul's Church, and in the Capuchins' Church to be rung continuously. When the bells were still ringing, I went to the Governor and salaamed. He turned to me saying, 'What you said was quite right. Eight of our ships and two sloops dropped anchor in the Madras roads, at one o'clock yesterday. M. Bouvet, the Commodore, has written by the catamaran people that he will come ashore and explain everything, and that all the available boats<sup>1</sup> should be sent out. M. Barthélemy has also written saying that the letters were despatched at three o'clock yesterday, that a present of 30 rupees should be given to the runners if they arrived this morning, and that he would write about other matters later. What will 'Alī Naqī say now? All those who formerly refused will now be compelled to pay.

<sup>1</sup> Reading *padahu* for *pattu*.

What mean fellows the Muhammadans are! In spite of all the help we have given them, they care for nothing but money, and would not oblige us with any in a time of need, even though they could have had it back in a week. They think nothing of the character of the persons who ask them for it. One can trust Europeans or Tamils but never Muhammadans.'

To this I replied, 'All cry out on the meanness of what they have done. Does not the whole kingdom know how you have protected and helped them? Do you owe your glory to them? Can they save you in any way? Their behaviour will discredit them, but cannot affect us. 'Alî Naqî now intends to visit you.' When I said this, the Governor replied, 'What does he want? He had better not enter my presence, the dog! If he wishes to go home, he can.' I answered, 'Not so, Sir; be gracious to him.' He replied, 'Don't even name the dog to me. Need I ask him for anything? Now you will see that each man will bring money of his own accord.'—I said, 'As this is our lucky time, people will thrust money upon us, without our stirring or asking for it.' He agreed and began to pace up and down. Presently he stopped near me and said, 'The Commodore of Fort St. David is a rascal, who will never fight. You see, when he sighted our ships off Fort St. David, he should have pursued till he had caught them up, and given them battle. But he waited till they were

out of sight, then sailed in shore, lay to the south of our roads, and only sailed slowly off the next day.<sup>1</sup> You will see him flying before our ships when they return. He will never fight, for he is a coward. I will send the troops that are now ready, or I will go myself, against Fort St. David in five or six days and cause great confusion there. Don't tell this to any one, but keep it secret. The merchants at Cuddalore and Fort St. David,' he continued, 'are, I believe, keeping their goods in Akkal Nayakkan's jungles and elsewhere. If we make careful search, we shall find somebody to show us the places on condition of sharing the spoil.' We spoke thus for a little while, and then I went to the nut-godown and lay down there, getting up again in the evening.

As to-day was the eve of the Feast of St. John, a bonfire was built south of the fort. The Governor went thither at the head of the troops, and lighted the bonfire. Guns also were fired.<sup>2</sup> I went at six

<sup>1</sup> Griffin's behaviour was severely criticised. The news of Bouvet's squadron was received at about 11 P.M. on the night of June 9/20; Griffin got aboard at 4 A.M. next morning; Bouvet came in sight about 2 P.M. that afternoon; and the English squadron did not sail till 1 A.M. next morning. In Griffin's defence it may be urged that two of his ships were rudderless, and that, if he had sailed after the sea-breeze set in (about noon), he would have been carried to the northward of Pondichery and so have left the way open for Bouvet to reach Pondichery. The Court Martial which considered his conduct found that he should have sailed with the land-wind before the enemy came in sight. The Admiralty considered his error one of judgment, not due to lack of zeal or courage. See the *Narrative of the transactions of the British Squadron in the East Indies*, pp. 64, etc.; also various papers at the Public Record Office. Griffin to Corbet August 15, 1748 (Ad. 1. 160), Griffin's Journal (Admirals' Journals No. 25), the Court Martial (Ad. 1. 5294), and Griffin's petition with the Admiralty report on it, Jan. 9, 1752 (Ad. 7. 480).

<sup>2</sup> Cf. Vol. iv, p. 106 *supra*.

o'clock to see the festival, and then returned to the nut-godown, where I talked with the Company's merchants till half-past seven, and so came home at gunfire.

Monday, June 24.<sup>1</sup>—As to-day was Madame Dupleix' name-day, when the Governor, the Councillors, the other Europeans and their wives, were ready to go to hear mass at the church by the south gate, I paid my respects to her with limes, and as the Governor was present, she received them with politeness and paid me compliments. Then the Governor and the rest of the Europeans with their wives went to the church. M. Bussy was sitting there, when all had gone, and I asked him about the ships from Europe. He replied, 'Nothing is known for certain from the Europe letters. M. le Chevalier d'Albert<sup>2</sup> is coming here as commander of the expected troops. It is also said that M. de La Bourdonnais has been imprisoned. His brother has also been arrested and has been sent to Madras. On the way, the squadron sighted a vessel laden with powder and shot which the Dutch were sending to the English,<sup>3</sup> but it was

<sup>1</sup> 14th *Āni*, *Vibhava*.

<sup>2</sup> After the destruction of Saint-Georges' squadron, a new one under d'Albert was prepared. It sailed Jan. 23, 1748, was scattered by a storm and d'Albert was made prisoner by the English, *Nazelle*, p. 185.

<sup>3</sup> She was called the *Corneille Magdelaine* (Pondichery to Negapatam Dec. 31, 1749, P.R. No. 15, p. 395). Dupleix says of her that she was bound with ammunition for Trinkāmalai 'where we knew there were several English ships at anchor.' (*Dupleix to the Minister*, Jan. 15, 1749, *Archives des Colonies*). That however is inaccurate. There were no English ships there at that time.

seized and carried to Madras. I believe that the squadron will sail here as soon as the silver is unloaded.' I then asked him to ascertain the Europe news and tell me all the details. 'But,' he said, 'do you expect me to hear more than you?' I replied, 'For all that, you are a Frenchman, but we are Tamils, and there is a difference between you and us. Be pleased therefore to tell me whatever news you may hear.' He promised to do so, and added, 'Madame Dupleix has said nothing severe about you for the last twenty days. I expect that she will treat you with great respect in future.' I answered, 'How can you say this? She could not change and become kind unless she had first been angry with me. But as she has always been kind to me, I am astonished at what you say.' He laughed heartily when I said this, and asked me if I were serious. I said, 'Why do you ask?'—He said, 'You are hiding your real thoughts. Why, everyone from Madras to Negapatam, knows that Madame Dupleix is bent upon injuring you. The new-born child knows as much. So I am astonished at your speaking thus; but it is no doubt prudent. However, I will tell you some good news. A certain person has told everything to M. Dupleix—about her abusing you, and making false accusations against you in your absence, and seizing your people. He grew very angry with her, spoke sharply to her, and told her plainly that she had better not speak ill of you again. As he has spoken thus, she will not meddle with you any more