

depart at once.' Thinking it useless to say much about the matter, I told him to await his opportunity and present the petition. Then I went to the nut-godown.

As soon as I had sat down there, a peon came and said that I was wanted by the Governor. When I went, he asked if any bags had been obtained. I replied that only twenty bags were ready, but that I was trying to get the rest. He said that thirty bags would be enough.

Then a trooper arrived from our camp at Ariyânkuppam, saying that an English force, consisting of Carnatic people and 200 European troopers, had come up, that their infantry had attacked ours, and that they were marching this way in great numbers. The Governor called me at once, and said he was surprised that the poligars' peons who had been encamped at Parayan Choultry should have attacked our people. I replied that if only our people fought with courage, the poligars' sepoys as well as Malrâjâ's and Kalyânarâjâ's people would retreat to Fort St. David, or desert into the country with their muskets. The Governor agreed, and said that if they had been Europeans it would have been serious, but that, as they were only a crowd of Carnatic people, they would desert with their arms.

Then M. Paradis arrived, and he and the Governor went talking together into Madame's room. I came out and sat down in the hall. Just

then a Topass horse-keeper of the Governor's came and gave him a letter from Ariyânkuppam. As soon as he had read it, he called me and said, 'I hear that the English have hoisted their flag at Singarikôyil. Where is that?' I replied that it was near Alisapâkkam, and that he had visited the place. Then Madame came and said, 'Don't you know Singarikôyil?' I went towards M. Paradis who was standing there. He turned to me saying, 'See what Madame's authority is!' I answered, 'I don't know.'

At twelve o'clock news arrived that our people had retreated this side of the Chunâmbâr and that the English were advancing in great force. Thereupon the Governor ordered food to be brought at once, intending to go thither as soon as he had eaten something. He called me, and told me to send bazaar-men with rice out to Ariyânkuppam. I said that they needed an advance of 200 rupees. He ordered me to pay and send them. At once I sent for Alagappa Mudali of the Choultry, informed him of the Governor's orders, took 200 rupees from Parasurâma Pillai for the merchants' advance, and asked him to send Ellâr's bazaar, Annapûrni's and some more. Alagappa Mudali departed, saying that he would send them at once.

News came in that a sloop and a ship were sailing hither from Fort St. David. The Governor and M. Paradis went upstairs to see. I waited till then at the nut-godown and came home at about one o'clock.

At two o'clock this afternoon the Governor sent for me. A letter had arrived from Vakîl Subbayyan who is with Mahfuz Khân's camp at Ginge and Vêttavalam. It said :—'A Shaikh, who serves as the English vakîl, presented a letter from the Governor of Fort St. David to Anwar-ud-dîn Khân, stating that twenty-six ships had arrived and that twelve more were coming, that they proposed to march against Pondichery on the 19th of this month, and, after taking it, to capture Madras also, that they had received 12,000 soldiers, and that Anwar-ud-dîn Khân should render them all assistance according to Nâsîr Jang's parwâna.¹ But Nawâb Anwar-ud-dîn Khân has slighted this letter and replied that he cannot help them at present. 'These things are being done by means of Husain Sâhib, without Mahfuz Khân's knowledge.' I reported this and also the news of the Marathas' advance and Chandâ Sâhib's coming. He replied that he had already heard this. I suppose that Madanânda Pandit must have told Madame who, in turn, has reported it before me. As people say, 'If you want a man who would rape his own mother, go to Madanânda Pandit.' One cannot expect better conduct from him. He treacherously pretends to work in my favour, but really he is digging pits for me. He has been reporting all that happens here to Tânappa Mudali and Madame, exaggerating it fourfold, for the sake of

¹ The report of this letter is inexact. See *Country Correspondence* 1748, pp. 48 and 51. Anwar-ud-dîn's answer is at p. 55, *ibid.*

pleasing them. I do not know how God can protect him.

Afterwards the Governor said to me, 'Ranga Pillai, Râman, the man who is employed at the beach, begged me to allow his wife (who is with child) to go out with one or two more. He said that he would not send any goods. But I told him that they could not go, and that I should send orders to the bounds to let no one pass. See that no one goes out.' So saying, he told his chobdar to fetch Shaikh Ibrâhîm. I made no reply, but asked whether the powder and lead should not be sent to Mahfuz Khân. He told me to write that powder and shot would be sent as requested. I wrote and sent the letter accordingly. I also wrote to the vakîl.

I then said that the passports might be sent, as requested, to Mamrêz Khân and 'Azmat Khân, whose ships sail from Covelong to Tenasserim. I added that I would get a sealed pass for the letters to Mahfuz Khân and to the Covelong people. When I said this, he himself went and gave me a sealed pass. The letters were despatched this evening.

He sent for me a little while after, and told me not to go away as he often wanted me. So I sat down. He came and asked if I could not tell Chandâ Sâhib's wife to write to the English. I said that it could be done, and asked what I should write. He told me to ask her to write as follows :—'How can you attack this town when I am here? Do you not know that my husband is coming with a Maratha army? If

you attack this town, consider what my husband will do when he comes; consider beforehand; then you will know what to expect.' He thought that such a letter would alarm them. But I reflected that though such a clever man could not but succeed, yet, no matter how clever a man might be, there was still that greater thing, the nectar of help, which is also called 'good fortune' or 'the favour of God.' So I answered, 'This is not the best time to write such a letter, and we should wait for another occasion.' He listened to what I said, but remained silent. I think I ought not to write much in comment upon what he says, however surprising it may be.

Dropping this matter, he said again, 'Send ten peons in disguise, so that none may know them, to set fire to the Muhammadan villages in which the English are encamped.' I replied that I would do so, but that the villagers should be given compensation as they were poor people. He said that it might be given. I then sent for Malayappan's peons, and ordered them to set fire to all the villages in which the English had set foot, that is to say, to set fire to some ten huts at each of the following:—Singari-kôyil, Kîlalinjipattu, Mêlalinjipattu, Bâhûr, Karukalâmpâkkam, Kirumâmpâkkam and other villages near by. I promised 10 rupees to whoever did this.

He came to me again, and, giving me two Maratha letters sent by M. Barthélemy, asked me to interpret them. They are written by a Brâhman Visâsi Raghunâtha Pandit, a servant of Fattah Singh

Bhônsla, to 'Abbâs Khân, and they were as follows:—'You sent Shaikh 'Abd-ul-nabî on a certain matter with a letter for Fattah Singh at Satâra. We went with him as far as Sâvanûr, but there he left us and rejoined you, by way of Mysore. We went by way of Arcot to Mylapore and stayed there five days, but being unable by inquiries to learn your whereabouts, we therefore proceeded to Kumbakônânam, and now send people to you to inform you of this. Please inform us where you are and how we can reach you. The great man whom you spoke to made us travel 100 leagues for nothing and we have been put to great difficulty. But that matters nothing, if you will send some one with our messenger so that we may come and see you. Then you will learn everything. I have borrowed 100 rupees for our maintenance and can set out only when my debts are paid. You, Sir, ordered me to travel to a strange place. My master honoured you and sent me to you with some messengers [?] on account of your letter to him: your business may be duly settled when I return to him. There is still much to do. If you reply soon, I will set out and come to you. What should I write more?'¹ I interpreted this as written above. The Governor said, 'You had better keep the letters with you. The Brâhman will come, and you must inquire about it.' So saying, he returned to Madame's room. I went

¹ The Tamil of this letter is ambiguous and the interpretation uncertain.

out and sat down in the verandah where I generally sit.

Just then M. Cornet came. The Governor having talked with him, came out and asked me how many candies of cotton were in stock. As I remembered the merchants had said there were twenty-three, I said there were about twenty-five. He told me to deliver them to M. Cornet, and I said I would do so.

He then asked if I had delivered the Company's broadcloth to M. Cornet. I explained that I could do so only after examining [P] it. He asked if the bales had been opened. I replied that M. Cornet had opened them before issuing them at the Fort.

He said that paddy was coming in from Villupuram and told me to procure some from the northward. I said I would do so. He then told me to see how much had been sent and to send for the remainder. I said I had already sent word this afternoon.

He went in again, and then, coming back, said, 'Why are the English giving so much trouble?' I replied, 'You yourself said that, as they had received orders from Europe to attack us, they would be hanged if they did not. You also said that Griffin and other former commanders would be severely blamed for not having fought, and for not having pursued and captured the eight ships which remained at anchor twelve hours after their arrival.

He who has now come, must therefore do his best. He is now pretending to attack us so that he may excuse himself by saying that we were too strong for him. If in the meantime your ships arrive, he will probably go to Bengal.'—'True,' he said, 'that is sure to happen. Tell the merchants and Chandâ Sâhib's and Mir Ghulâm Husain's people that they need not fear the enemy's cannon, and they can find plenty of shelter in the town if the English bombard us.' I said I would tell them so.

He again asked whether the Nawâb would help the English. I said, 'You know Mahfuz Khân's mind. He is on your side. Muhammad 'Alî Khân who is on their side is at Trichinopoly. But the old man cares nothing for other people, and wishes only to take care of himself. Your good fortune terrifies the subahdar and makes cowards of your enemies; as they are destined to defeat and you to victory, they will be powerless in spite of all their skill; and he who is destined to success will be called great in spite of all his weakness. This is well known to you. What did M. de La Bourdonnais get by his fighting? He killed two of the enemy; but who died of the French? Did he even fight for fifteen or twenty days until they had no provisions left? But Mr. Morse lost his wits as soon as ten shells had fallen, and in great alarm insisted on delivering up the Fort; and now that he is accused, he is trying to make friends by means of his wife with the new commander in order to

escape blame. You know this. What more need I say?'—He answered, 'As you say, did he hold Madras till no longer able to defend it? It was surrendered because M. de La Bourdonnais and Mr. Morse had secret dealings; for the capture of a place like Madras is no joke. Their materials of war and provisions would have lasted a ten years' siege.'

Just then M. Paradis came in. They went inside to talk. Presently he called his palankin, and, as he was about to go out, he turned to me and said, 'Send word to all the posts on the roads to let neither men nor cattle pass to-morrow except those sent to fetch paddy.' So saying, he went out.

I then went to the nut-godown and sent word about the Governor's orders to the town-gates and the toll-gates. I gave the passes, that had been prepared for 'Azmat Khân and Mamrêz Khân of Covelong, to their people together with a letter and told them to accompany the letter that was going to Subbayyan, the vakîl with Mahfuz Khân.

As I was calling for tea, Peddu Nâyakkan came and said, 'M. Boyelleau demanded 100 rupees on account of the passports for 'Azmat Khân and Mamrêz Khân of Covelong. But when I explained that you had asked me to speak to him about it, he accepted ninety rupees. I told Madanânda Pandit that I had brought the balance of ten rupees but he permitted me to keep it.' I told him he might do so. For these two passports, Madanânda Pandit received from 'Azmat Khân and Mamrêz.

Khân's people 60 star pagodas, 30 for each passport. At the rate of 345 rupees for 100 pagodas, 60 pagodas amount to 207 rupees. Of this, he has given 90 rupees to M. Boyelleau, and 10 to Peddu Nâyakkan, and kept the remaining 107. Besides, Madurai who was given ten pagodas to get these passports has received ten rupees more for himself. Although I knew all this, I spoke as though I knew nothing, that I may accuse him to the Governor when an occasion offers. I have a short statement about this from those who came for the passports. Nor is this all. I can now make him confess that he stopped the business when the Company demanded money of 'Alî Naqî Sâhib. I can put a rope round his neck whenever I please. Not only can I drive him out of the town, but also get him severely punished. There is still more. He received 500 rupees for secretly helping to send out Badê Sâhib's goods. While he has been gaining thousands, I have been bearing all with patience; but since he wants to ruin me, I desire now to accuse him and have him banished; but I do not know what God will put in my mind to-morrow.

At five o'clock, an English boat came to take soundings near the shore. A shot was fired but it missed.

*Thursday, August 22.*¹—The Governor sent for me this morning and said, 'I am going to send my

¹ 10th *Avani*, *Vibhava*.