

a bullet-wound in his shoulder, so he was taken to the hospital.

Just then five or six of the English cannon-balls were brought to the Governor. All were of the same size, made of cast iron, and weighing each five pounds and a quarter.

Then news came that the English had advanced up to the walls of Ariyânkuppam and surrounded it on all sides. Some wept at this news. The Governor did not know what to do, and could not speak without tears. I cannot describe his frantic alarm. But though he is full of fear and surrounded with difficulties, yet his good luck has always carried the day. I have written enough about this matter. For all his folly, his good fortune has bewitched the English. After a short retreat they returned in order to scale the ramparts with ladders. Those on the ramparts and others below under 'Alî Khân and Shaikh Hasan fought so bravely that the English retired to the Ayyanâr temple with severe loss. M. de La Touche and M. Law, officers, wrote to the Governor that the English shells were falling on the ramparts at Ariyânkuppam, that some had been wounded by their bursting, and that the French would have to withdraw as they could no longer hold the walls. The Governor replied that they should retire quietly.

News also came that, though many of the English had fallen, they still advanced steadily without flinching, that, though some had retired on account

of the heat, the rest were pressing on boldly in spite of their losses, and that their fire had killed some of our people. I obtained four of their cannon-balls and have kept them.

While the Governor was thus in great alarm, the whole town was in a panic at hearing the sound of the firing. Many women and children, when not allowed to pass the gate in the bound-hedge, were ready to force their way out in despair. For the last five or six days, the guards have been taking bribes to allow people to pass, but Shaikh Ibrâhîm, fearing what might happen if he let more pass, or if the Governor were informed of those who had already gone, thought it best to ascertain what the Governor wished; so he came and told him (as written above) that many women were crying that it was a matter of life and death, and that the enemy were about to attack the place. The Governor thought that he could hold out no longer, and, as Shaikh Ibrâhîm came when he was troubled in mind, he said that all the women might go. Shaikh Ibrâhîm told me that, when he asked if rich women might be allowed to pass, the Governor said that they might go, but that any money they had with them was to be seized and brought to him, and that no men, but only women, were to be allowed to go out.

Just then I was told that the Governor wanted me. As soon as I went, he asked me if it was true that all the women in the town were flying in panic.

I said that it was. He then told me that he had ordered Brâhmans and women to be let out after being searched, but none else. I replied that he was right to do so, as during these troubles Sâdra women and Brâhmans would be very troublesome in the town. He agreed. He never would have given this order had he not been perturbed in mind, and had not the people been destined to see better days.

He then told me to send for three hundred of the Muhammadan sepoy's stationed at the bound-hedge instead of the three hundred and fifty he had previously sent for. I told Shaikh Ibrâhîm and went to the nut-godown.

He again sent for me and asked how many peons were under Malayappan, adding 'I hear that fifty of them who were with the detachment have deserted. Let proper orders be given.' I said I would do so, and having sent for head-peon Malayappan I told him what the Governor had said. He replied that the peons were not under him but under Alagan, Madame's man, that therefore he could do nothing, for she would say that only her own people could give orders, and that he had no business to interfere. I agreed with him, that it would be incurring her anger for nothing. So I told him to give no direct orders, adding that, if any complaint was made and the Governor questioned him closely, he could then say what he had told me. I then dismissed him, telling him to have the other peons ready.

The Governor then sent for me and asked why there were 45 missing out of the 510 sepoy's posted at the bounds, including the Carnatic sepoy's. I explained that I had sent twenty peons with an officer to intercept the English letters from Telli-cherry, ten to go with the Brâhman carrying letters to Mahé, and fourteen to Vakîl Subbayyan at Gingee. He then asked where Malayappan's hundred and thirty peons were. I replied that fifty were at Alisapâkkam under Madame's orders, sixty were here, ten were carrying letters to and from Kârikâl, and ten more who used to collect fodder had gone with the palankin-bearers to Madras.

Two messengers from Chandâ Sâhib have come, saying that they left Chandâ Sâhib at Sâvanûr and Bankâpuram with 12,000 horse and that they had about sixty letters smelling of attar for the Governor and Chandâ Sâhib's [people]. When I questioned them, they said that, by God's grace, Chandâ Sâhib would be here with 12,000 horse in twenty days. I asked if the news was true and they declared that it was. So I went to the Governor and announced that Chandâ Sâhib had reached Sâvanûr and Bankâpuram with 12,000 Maratha horse, and that he had sent one of his people with forty or fifty letters to his family, to the Governor and others. On this he answered with tears in his eyes, 'This is the right time, Ranga Pillai, to write to Chandâ Sâhib that the English will capture Pondichery unless he comes to our help. Ask his family to write also

and have the messengers sent off at once.' I cannot describe the distress with which he uttered these words. Any one would have been troubled at hearing him speak thus. Even the stoutest-hearted would have been affected; how much more then was I? I need not write it. The wise will understand.

I supposed that Ariyânkuppam must have fallen into their hands, and that the horse and foot and even the Europeans occupying this side of the river must be in danger, as otherwise he should never have spoken as if already in the enemy's clutches. So I was troubled, and, thinking of the threatened danger, went to the nut-godown.

I then resolved to send away the daughter-in-law of Tirumalai Pillai's daughter and his family, Chingleput Sêshâdri Pillai's family and Ramana Pillai's family—thirty or forty persons in all, both men and women—who were in my house. However I decided to keep here for my comfort my wife and children, my brother, his wife and children, and three servant-girls. So I told Virâ Nâyakkan and Elaichiyappan to send away all but these. The Governor permitted me to do so. As soon as this was known, all the women, children and old men deserted the town. Shaikh Ibrâhîm and those on the Pudupâlaiyam road at Karuvadikuppam, on the Madras and Sâram roads, and at Perumâl Nâyakkan's Choultry—all these persons were thereby benefited.

The Governor thought he would profit by Rangappan's¹ issuing passes, and he permitted Shaikh Ibrâhîm to let persons pass with the seizure of their goods and money. He even said that passes might be dispensed with. Shaikh Ibrâhîm has been speaking secretly with the Governor, and letting merchants carry out their goods for a trifle. It was only when the English were ready to spring upon us, when his mind was shaken with alarm, and when women gathered at the toll-gates vowing they would escape though they were to be beaten or killed for it, that the Governor, still lusting after money in spite of his panic, permitted all who wished to depart. Shaikh Ibrâhîm joyfully regards this as an excuse for his having previously allowed people to depart, and is permitting men to go as well. As matters are at this pass, the Governor who has all along been expecting to gain some ten or twenty thousand, has at last given his consent without any objection. Shaikh Ibrâhîm went back to his post, full of joy at having shifted the responsibility.

I then went to Chandâ Sâhib's house to visit his son, Razâ Sâhib, and congratulate him on the Governor's behalf. I obtained three Madras pagodas and two rupees from Razâ Sâhib's servant and sent them as a nazar to Chandâ Sâhib's wife by the hand of her woman-servant with the Governor's compliments. She sent me pân supârî with a

¹ Quere, the Governor's writer.

suitable answer. Razâ Sâhib said that Chandâ Sâhib had reached Sâvanûr and Bankâpuram with 12,000 Maratha horse in consequence of my efforts and the Governor's, that his father desired the Governor's permission to come here, and settle his affairs with the help of the French. Promising to talk with me about other matters in the afternoon, he gave a letter to me for the Governor, and another to Madanânda Pandit for himself, adding that he would send me my letter later as he could not recollect where he had put it. There were also letters for Tânapa Mudali and M. du Bausset. I do not know who else has received letters. I then took leave and came home. I suppose that Chandâ Sâhib forgot to write to me.

Before I had finished eating, the Governor's people summoned me. He was ill at ease when I went, and ordered me to prevent any cattle from being carried out. I said that some had already gone, and then went to the nut-godown. He sent me the bill of exchange that is to go to Kârikâl, and I despatched it at once by two of Malayappan's peons.

Then a Brâhman and a Pandâram arrived from Mahé. They said, 'It is twelve days since we left Mahé. We heard that twenty-four ships had arrived there. We saw four of them, and we heard that the rest were out at sea as they could not anchor in the roads owing to the heavy rain. Our letters only announce this. We left them at Varadânallâr,

meaning to fetch them when we had seen how matters stood in the town. On our way, we heard that the English were watching the roads in parties of five and ten. A Topass and five or six peons seized me, and asked if I was not the Brâhman who brought letters from Mahé, and struck me ten times with their fists. But I replied cunningly that I used to do so, but that now I tilled lands at Varadânallâr. It was fortunate that we had left the letters behind, otherwise we should have been put to great trouble. Be pleased to tell the Governor, and send ten musketeers and pikemen with us to fetch the letters; otherwise the English who are watching the roads will seize them.' I thereon took them with me, but I heard that he had gone to the St. Laurent Bastion, where the saluting battery is, and then to the hospital.

News came from Ariyânkuppam that, though the English had retreated, they had rallied and again attacked the walls of Ariyânkuppam, resolved not to withdraw without capturing the place. Also the sound of firing was heard from the batteries this side of the river near the ford. But when the officer commanding the English fell, at once they fled, on which, Shaikh Hasan and 'Alî Khân pursued for some distance. The English lost eight horses killed and three taken by the second Jemadar of Shaikh Hasan's people. Two of these are worth little, but the third is valued at 1,000 or 1,200 rupees. News came that some of the English had