

and presents sent to Nâsîr Jang, arrived in a palankin at seven o'clock to-night with ten peons, and letters to the Governor and M. d'Auteuil from Major Lawrence who with others commands in Nâsîr Jang's camp on behalf of the Governor of Fort St. David. The Governor received the letter, but would not see Gôpâla Ayyan and made him wait outside. He then called me and said, 'Major Lawrence, who is at Nâsîr Jang's camp, has written to me and to M. d'Auteuil with compliments, saying that, if I please, he will arrange with the help of the English at Nâsîr Jang's camp to make peace between us and Nâsîr Jang. What do you think of the English thus interfering in this affair?' I replied, 'I will say plainly what I think, if you will forgive me should my words give offence.' He said, 'Don't be so formal, but speak out.' Thereupon I said, that it would be better to treat for peace by a load-carrying cooly than the English. 'Why so?' he asked. I replied, 'When Nâsîr Jang set out from Aurangabad, his bowels were convulsed with fear of you, so that his head and heart were troubled. In every letter, he wrote that he would exceed all their<sup>1</sup> offers, and that we should abandon their friendship and join him.

<sup>1</sup> i.e., Chandâ Sahib and Muzaffar Jang.

Moreover he desired M. le Verrier through the Nawâb of Surat, M. Coquet of Masulipatam, Coja Namat-ul-lah Khân (subahdar of those parts) and others to write to you; and he has himself written a host of letters to you. Then his good luck delivered him of his fear, for the officers of our army withdrew so that M. d'Auteuil had to retire because he could do nothing without soldiers, and Muzaffar Jang deserted us on the advice of his paymaster who also got rid of his elephants, horses and troops by telling them that Hidâyat Muhî-ud-dîn Khân had gone to Pondichery. Moreover [Mîr] Muhammad went to Nâsîr Jang himself, and said that Muzaffar Jang only had 400 horsemen, that our army and Chandâ Sâhib's had retired, and that Muzaffar Jang was alone. Thereupon Shâh Nawâz Khân was sent to bring Muzaffar Jang; and only after the latter was imprisoned, did Nâsîr Jang resolve not to run away but to remain near Pondichery. Although the English, Mîr Asad, Mahfuz Khân and others knew by experience that they could not exaggerate the strength of our artillery, yet they spoke slightly of it to Nâsîr Jang. But they could not remove Nâsîr Jang's fear and he still was resolved on flight. Although for the time he had to do as they advised, yet he still feared, owing to the heavy losses inflicted on his troops by our army in

its retreat. So when he heard that our army, which had lain quiet at Pondichery till now, had marched to-day, he sent for the English and told them that they must fight, and play the same part as before. They must have answered that they had fought against Muzaffar Jang's and Chandâ Sâhib's enemies; but that they could not attack the French in their fort because they were at peace with the English. Nâsir Jang must have replied that he could not depart, having come so far. Perhaps they may then have offered to make peace between us and him and have written to you. As the English induced Nâsir Jang to come with promises of their assistance, and as they cannot give the help they promised, they want at least to satisfy him with words, and make men think that they have made peace between us and him. They then could write to Europe saying that, if they had not done so, Nâsir Jang would never have given up the idea of capturing Pondichery. They would say the same here. So, as your good fortune will bring you success that will shine throughout the country, it is not advisable to do as they say.' When I thus explained matters to him as well as I could, he agreed and asked me to write to Nâsir Jang as follows:—'The English have written to me saying that you have desired them to mediate

a peace. But I will never accept their mediation. However if you will tell those who are with you that you do not wish their interference, I will send two Marathas to you.' This severe letter was written out in proper terms, sealed, and despatched at nine o'clock by his old chobdar's son. He took it and set out, after which I went to the nut-godown.

The Governor sent me word by Appu that I was to mock Gôpâla Ayyan, the English Brâhman, for having brought a letter which might as well have been brought by a cooly. I sent for Gôpâla Ayyan, told him (with additions of my own) what the Governor had said, with less respect than would have been paid to a cooly, gave him Mr. Lawrence's letter with a gate-pass, and desired him to depart at once. He received the letter and took his leave, saying that he would set out tomorrow morning. When I had informed the Governor of this, the Second and M. Friell went home at half-past eleven, and I did the same.

*Wednesday, April 15.*<sup>1</sup>—The Governor sent for me this morning, and asked how Nâsir Jang's camp was being supplied with fuel and leaves. He added that they would soon depart. I replied, 'Firewood is being brought from places ten leagues distant. A man's

<sup>1</sup> 6th Chittirai, Pramôdata.

load of straw costs a rupee here, but one and a half or two rupees there. I hear also that they complain of a lack of water.—‘In that case,’ he said, ‘there will be a pestilence.’ I observed that either fevers or some other disease would weaken them. He agreed.

He then asked if the present rain would do any good. I replied, ‘It will permit ploughing the land for cumbu. But the whole country has been laid waste by Nâsîr Jang’s troops; and the plundering Maratha horse carried off the bullocks and cows, and all that the cultivators had in their houses, even the thatch, poles and timbers, leaving only the bare walls. So how can there be any cultivation? How long did the country take to attain to its recent prosperity, and how long will it take to regain it?’ He said, ‘Their army will retreat tomorrow. Won’t there be time then?’ I replied, ‘What is the use of time if the ryots have not the means of cultivation?’—‘The people of the out-villages,’ he said, ‘have not suffered, because Muzaffar Jang’s and Chandâ Sâhib’s troops were encamped within the bound-hedge, so they have the means of cultivation and will have a good harvest if they cultivate their lands.’ I agreed.

Then the Corporal of the North Gate came and said that the English dubâsh who had come from Nâsîr Jang’s camp had been waiting

since yesterday evening with letters. The Governor said he could be brought. Gôpâla Ayyan, the dubâsh, came with letters from Fort St. David Council to the Pondichery Council and from Major Lawrence at Nâsîr Jang’s camp to the Governor. In the presence of me and Madanânda Pandit, the Governor ordered Gôpâla Ayyan to wait outside, so as to make it appear that the English desired a correspondence which he disliked; afterwards he ordered the letters to be brought, asked why he had been sent back in such haste, and, admitting him, inquired why he had stayed outside the town last night when he arrived. He said he had waited outside by order of the gate-people. The Governor ordered him to return at once, saying that he would send a reply by his own people. The dubâsh replied, ‘I waited outside the gate last night, without food, drenched in the rain, and without sleep. I cannot go without food, so I will eat and then depart.’ The Governor permitted this.

He then sent the letters to be translated. After reading them, he wrote replies to the Fort St. David Council and Major Lawrence, put them in one cover, addressed to Mr. Lawrence at Nâsîr Jang’s camp, and gave them to me to be despatched by the dubâsh. I sent them by Kandâl Guruvappa Chetti to the Brâhman who was in the Brâhman Street.

Mr. Cope formerly wrote to M. d'Auteuil that the English were willing to treat for peace. We replied agreeing, and then Mr. Lawrence's letter came by dubâsh Gôpâla Ayyan. Now a letter has come from the Fort St. David Council to the Pondichery Council offering their mediation with Nâsir Jang and the Governor has sent an answer. As the proverbs say, 'Serve the hasty man his food on a leaf, and me mine on the floor' and 'A blind horse can't be blamed for stumbling'; so I think he will agree. Letters are being received and sent about what should be done. But it would be less disreputable to use a sweeper's mediation. The Governor and others think as I do; but fate cannot be avoided. A man's actions are decided by destiny. Have not the wise said, 'Destiny overrules wisdom?' What must be will be. Regrets are useless.

At one o'clock this afternoon, I interpreted to the Governor the letter brought by Muhammad Razâ Sâhib, Chandâ Sâhib's son, as follows:—'As soon as your troops marched, Nâsir Jang was seized with fear and said that you meant to surprise him at night. He lay awake the whole night for fear he or Muzaffar Jang should be carried off. His tent was guarded all round by musketeers, grenadiers and artillery people, and 10,000 horsemen were

posted as far as Perumbai to keep watch all night long. Shâh Nawâz Khân has been ordered to answer that your letter was not written in the proper forms, but if you write properly, they will give you Arcot and depart. When you write to Shâh Nawâz Khân, write also to Nâsir Jang as follows:—"Our troops have marched out and the time has come when you must decide. I will readily consent if you choose peace and write about it." Muzaffar Jang is being treated harshly in prison. Mîr Asad and others say that they will not leave one stone upon another in Pondichery. As the Marathas are laying waste Aurangabad, Hyderabad and other places, and as the rainy season will begin shortly, Nâsir Jang is resolved to march northwards.'

This letter was read and interpreted to the Governor. He observed, 'Altogether six letters with the usual compliments, have been sent to Nâsir Jang but no reply has been received. Write now that our troops have marched and that I do not mind whether he is for war or peace.' He then told Chandâ Sâhib's son that he might go, that a letter would be written to Nâsir Jang as desired and that a reply would be sent to Shâh Nawâz Khân on receipt of his letter. So he took leave and departed.

Nâsir Jang's letter was written and sealed.