

I can repay your kindness. Of what use writing? If my mother and my wife were with me, they would support me in my sea of sorrow, whence there is no escape, or they would strive for my release. So be pleased to send them to me; if you do so, I will never forget it. Although I cannot repay you, God will protect you. In the name of Jesus Christ, I beg you to send my family to me; if not, I shall die of fear, and the sin thereof will fall on you.' When I reported the contents of this mad letter, the Governor said, 'He must have lost his senses, else he would never have written such a letter.' Then he went out for a drive.

He returned at six o'clock and told me to write to Muzaffar Jang as follows:—'I have read and understood the contents of your letter. I do not hinder your mother, wife, etc., from joining you; but your wife's remaining here will greatly assist your release, for it will devour Nâsir Jang's mind like a worm. That is why they remain here. By God's favour you will soon be restored to the enjoyment of your rights, whereat they also will rejoice. I am astonished at your letter, for you know well that, in time of danger, resolution alone can overcome the enemy. Act therefore suitably to the time, speak favourably to those in the camp, and so all your affairs shall be made

to prosper.' I was directed to write such a letter and send it by the servant who brought Muzaffar Jang's. I therefore did so.

Afterwards he said, 'How did Khâlif Khân's daughter, who used to live in Muzaffar Jang's house, leave Pondichery? Others may attempt the same, so tell the peons to be careful.' I therefore sent for the peons, gave them the Governor's orders, and asked them how Khâlif Khân's daughter had escaped. They replied, 'We don't know. Servant-girls go in and out a thousand times. How can we tell if she went secretly? We should know only if she went out in palankin or carriage, or on a horse or bullock, with her property.' I informed the Governor and warned the peons to be careful and went to my office.

The *mettu*-people came and reported that Muttiya Pillai would reach the Kottakuppam choultry and arrive to-morrow afternoon, the constellation being *Makham*.¹

*Tuesday, June 9.*²—At seven o'clock this morning the Governor sent for me and asked how the matter of the left-hand caste people had been decided. I replied, 'Can they resist your orders? They are on the point of

¹ The first constellation in the house of *Simha* (or *Leo*). Each of the twelve signs of the zodiac comprehends $2\frac{1}{2}$ constellations, of which there are 27.

² 30th *Vaigâsi*, *Pramôdita*

agreeing to lend you the sum asked for, but they still hesitate lest people should say that they had paid on account of this affair. Have they ever before resisted your orders?' The Governor answered, 'They might hesitate if I had asked for a gift; but I asked for a loan on account of the scarcity of money. I will send for both sides to-morrow and finish the affair as they formerly desired.' I agreed.

He then asked the news from Arcot. I replied that something must have happened to delay Jayarâm Pandit's mission. 'How? how?' he asked. I replied, 'A man fears what is near him. As [Nâsir Jang] is 10 leagues¹ away what can be done against him? If our army marches, the numerous harkaras on the way will send news of it. He fears nothing, for he is on the alert and the fort is prepared against attack. Moreover the rainy season is at hand, so he cannot return. He means in a few days to march and halt this side of the Kistna. Thus he hopes to alarm the killedars who have been long laying up money, and compel them to give up their wealth in order to recover the enormous expenses of his march from Aurangabad to Pondichery. Moreover, I am told that Jayarâm Pandit's affair is delayed, owing to

¹ The Indian league of (roughly) 10 miles.

Taqî Sâhib's and 'Alî Naqî Sâhib's evil reports, on the occasion of their visit to Nâsir Jang.'—'Who says so?' he asked. I replied that I had heard it from the jemadars and peons who go to and from Arcot. 'How could they learn secret news?' he asked. I replied, 'I repeat merely what I hear, as usual.' As some jewellery was to be sold at outcry in the Fort, I told the Governor and attended the sale.

*Wednesday, June 10.*¹—The *Maurepas* arrived from Europe this morning, M. de Beauregard² captain. She came by way of Mauritius, and, arriving here at half-past six or seven this morning, dropped anchor in the roads and fired a salute of seventeen guns which was returned by the Fort. M. de Beauregard landed, visited the Governor and delivered him the Company's letters. The Governor took them inside, read them, called the Captain, and spoke a word or two with him outside. The councillors present said nothing but only listened to what the Captain said, and then left. I hear that the ship has brought 50,000 marcs of silver.³ M. Kerjean

¹ *31st Vaigâsi, Pramôdita*. The text gives the Christian date as the 12th.

² Renault de Beauregard was brother of the Company's servant, Renault de St. Germain, who was later on to surrender Chandernagore to the English (*Arch. des Col.* C² 15). I believe him to be the same as the country captain mentioned in d'Albert's Journal of 1725 (*Mémoires et Corree. du Chevalier et du Général de la Favelle*, p. 248).

³ The correct figure is 40,000. See *Mémoire pour la Compagnie contre le sieur Dupleix*, No. XIV, L.