

NOVEMBER 1753.

*Tuesday, November 6.*¹—I went to the Governor's at eight o'clock this morning and paid my respects. He asked if a fine pandal had been erected. I said, yes, and added, 'Such a lofty pandal has never before been built. A great pole has been used to join the two pillars, from which to hang the new lantern of coloured glass that is eight feet high.'—'Yes,' the Governor said, 'I did that so that it may be used when needed.'²

So saying he went into M. Bertrand's room, and then upstairs. I went to the sorting-godown, thence to my office, and at last went and sat down in the pandal that has been built near the Manakkulam Pillaiyâr temple. M. Estabar [?], the ship's captain, who was going southward in his palankin, got out on seeing me, and came up, saying, 'You have received two or three letters from M. Duvelaer, the Company's director. He is very powerful and his word prevails over all others' so that none can say him nay. He is very fond of you, so

¹ 25th *Arppisi, Srimukha.*

² If I remember right,—I have mislaid my reference,—this was erected for the celebration, with due pomp, of the marriage of de Kerjean with Jeanne Carvalho, which took place on November 17, 1753. This must have been a second marriage on the part of de Kerjean, for the *French Correspondence*, 1752, p. 112, shows him married, and very uncomfortably married, to (apparently) a niece of Madame Paradis. But M. Martineau's invaluable edition of the *Actes de l'Etat Civil de Pondichéry* fails to throw any light on this earlier marriage.

next year you will be very prosperous. He told me that when M. Dupleix was promoted from Bengal to be Governor of Pondichery, he entrusted you with his private trade, and you managed everything until Nâsir Jang's death, so that his affairs prospered and he and the nation shone like the sun. Moreover you secured for the Company, which till then had confined itself to its trade, countries yielding 15 lakhs of rupees, Bunder, and other places. Nevertheless M. Dupleix thought fit to dismiss you,¹ fitted as you were to bear the burden of the State, and entrusted the management to Madame who fetched a fellow from Madras begotten of generations of beggars, and who himself had lived by begging and stealing, for which he had been imprisoned, chained and beaten at Madras. To him, she entrusted the management of the country, whereby all our glory had been tarnished, and our wealth and territory lost. Why was this done? or what right had he to do anything of himself?'

Thus he related to me all that M. Duvelaer had said. It would take me 20 or 30 sheets to write it all, and no one would believe it. He said, 'The city is going to ruin. There is no order in it, or in the country that they manage.

¹ Ranga Pillai was not dismissed, it seems, from the Chief Dubâship, but was not entrusted with political duties.

Who ever heard of any one's entrusting the management of affairs to his wife, as is done in Pondichery? Next year will come orders from Comptroller-General, the King's minister, confiding the management to you. Then you may believe what I am telling you.

'His worst enemy is M. d'Auteuil, whom he sent home.' He has written that the Governor can neither rule nor manage; and has even said that the Company will lose the place if he remains here as Governor. The Governor's nephew saw the letter, but I do not know if a copy has been sent out.

'The European ladies and gentlemen, including the Council, are all complaining of his wife in their letters to Europe. The ships' captains and the very sailors who arrive in Europe say that Madame Dupleix has ruined the Company, and their complaints resound through all France, the Netherlands and England, so that I wondered at their knowing what had happened here, when I knew nothing of it.' He talked about this for two hours and then departed.

I suppose the Comptroller-General of Finance, the Company, the people of Paris

¹ See above, p. 413 n. If this is true, d'Auteuil was as unreliable a political as a military agent. It may be noted that his connection with Dupleix had been weakened by the death of Madame d'Auteuil in 1751.

and those at L'Orient have learnt of our acquiring territory and defeating our enemies after I was entrusted with the management, and of our failures ever since I was kept out of business and the management was given to Madame. So they are talking about it. This is better than the conquest of kingdoms, for what greater joy can I have than to know that my conduct has been approved by my master, the Company, and its master the Minister? When I was appointed, there came the English troubles, in which Madras was taken and the English were beaten. Then Anwar-ud-dîn Khân, the Nawâb of Arcot, was beaten; and after him, Nâsîr Jang, the Pâdshâh of the Deccan, was defeated and Hidâyat Muhî-ud-dîn Khân was placed on the throne, and then Salabat Jang. When the countries had been conquered, I thought I had satisfied the Governor; but then M. Delarche stepped in to share the meal; then Madame replaced him, and scavengers and chucklers became men of worship, so that the kingdom was ruined and the Company dishonoured. I have been wondering who would bear the news to Europe, 6,000 leagues away. What greater joy is there than the unlooked-for pleasure of knowing that men so distant have heard of what has happened here? The Padré said I was spoken of by M. Duvelaer to the

Comptroller-General, M. Machault, M. Montaran who is next to him, and even before the King himself, a dozen times. I do not write all this in detail lest I should seem to be writing my own praise.

*Saturday, November 10.*¹—I hear that news has reached the sowcars' shops, that Bhâji Râo and Târâ Bai have quarrelled; Târâ Bai has sent Salabat Jang a *hundi* for five lakhs of rupees, with a message that Bhâji Râo wishes to overthrow her and conquer his Moghul country, proposing to unite in order to defeat Bhâji Râo, for which purpose the five lakhs were sent for the preparation of artillery and troops, and promising to help him with 20,000 or 25,000 horse, to destroy Bhâji Râo. As Târâ Bai wrote thus, Sânoji Nimbâlakar who is an enemy of Bhâji Râo, told Salabat Jang that if he obeyed Târâ Bai's wishes, he would join him with all the troops he could collect, in order to attack and slay Bhâji Râo. Salabat Jang has accepted the five lakhs of rupees, and is preparing artillery and troops to attack Bhâji Râo.

The following message was sent to Târâ Bai by Bhâji Râo:—

'You are helping the enemy and will ruin your house. I have never betrayed you, but

¹ 29th Arppisi, Srîmukha.

acted as your chief minister, taking the Moghuls' country and reducing your enemies' power, for your sake. I have never attacked your country. If you suspect me of injuring you when I am striving for your glory, and if you imprudently assist your enemies, you will ruin your house. My lot is decreed according to the writing on my head. What can Salabat Jang or the Pâdshâh or you or others do? Because you are a woman, you act without circumspection; therefore I write to you. You will do as you please, but think well before you act.' This letter was written and sent to Târâ Bai by respectable persons, and this news has been sent to the sowcars. I have written accordingly.

*Wednesday, November 21.*¹—I hear that, when Senhor da Cruz [?], the Portuguese officer,² marched from here to Utramallûr with twelve soldiers, Râmalinga Ayyan and his foot-soldiers and the manager, they were attacked by the English, and in the retreat M. da Cruz, the commander, and the twelve soldiers were killed, and the rest who escaped in safety returned with Râmalinga Ayyan, having abandoned 400 guns and other munitions to the enemy. This news was concealed

¹ 10th Kârttigai, Srîmukha.

² Bussy had a so-called Portuguese company with him in the Deccan; there were others, it seems, at Pondichery.