

furnishing security, came on and reported the news to M. Leyrit, the Governor, who ordered ten rupees to be given to him for his expenses, [and wrote] that the letters were intended for the Mysore vakîl Venkatanâranappa Ayyan, that the people were well-known in Pondichery, that the letters should be sent on without delay, and that orders given not to allow such a thing to be repeated in future.

I also heard that M. Duplant, M. du Bausset, M. Delarche, M. Desvaux, M. Cornet, M. Miran, M. Pichard, a few officers and a ship's padre talked with M. Leyrit who retired to his room on their departure.

*Saturday, February 17.*<sup>1</sup>—I hear that the *Haarlem*, a small Dutch ship, arrived from Madras with goods which our people had taken there. The captain was saluted by the Fort, and the ship is anchored in the roads.

Europeans told me to-night that M. Lally had written to M. Leyrit saying that, as it was rumoured at Pondichery that the attack of Madras had been abandoned, the man who started the rumour should be found out and hanged and a reply sent, and that they thought that it was better not to say anything about Madras.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> 9th Mâsi, Bahudânya.

<sup>2</sup> Lally had actually begun his retreat from Madras when the conversation took place.

*Sunday, February 18.*<sup>1</sup>—I heard this evening that the English sepoy, etc., who retreated from St. Thomas' Mount had beset our Rangô Pandit's horsemen, sepoy, etc., at Sadras and plundered the place.

I hear that Appu Mudali and a few others, who were on their way from here to Madras, have returned as they found the road unsafe. There is no smoke without fire; but it is the way of the world to make much of a trifle.

I also heard that two of Krishna Râo's horsemen went to Karukudikuppam to enquire about Para Nalliyân's house and then returned.

I also heard that Father Lavaur was talking with M. Leyrit, the Governor, from five o'clock to seven.

*[Monday], February 19.*<sup>2</sup>—It was proclaimed by beat of tom-tom in the town that the Governor in Council had ordered parchment rupees to pass current. I write below the contents of the paper as was proclaimed:—Be it known to all that Mahârâja Mânyasrî Periya Dorai Avargal hereby informs the Company's officials, sepoy and peons that henceforward they will receive parchment money bearing the French Company's seal, and that none should refuse the new money at its face-value from one rupee upwards in exchange for their

<sup>1</sup> 10th Mâsi, Bahudânya.

<sup>2</sup> 11th Mâsi, [Bahudânya].

goods ; and that the parchment money will be accepted by the Company at its face-value. Dated this day Monday, 11th *Mâsi* of *Bahudânya* corresponding with February 19, 1759, under the hand of Monsieur the Governor Leyrit Avargal.<sup>1</sup>

At ten o'clock to-day I heard the following news :—M. Leyrit, the Governor, went to the hospital this morning and, after inspecting the sick, returned to the Fort at nine. Afterwards he received a letter from the commandant of Gingee saying that Mysore troops, consisting of 3,000 horse and 2,000 sepoy sent under a sardâr to his assistance, had passed through Sankarâpuram and Pândalam, and joined M. Mainville. M. Leyrit, the Governor, sent this news to M. Lally. M. Bussy, who had returned owing to ill-health, is staying at the Olukarai garden. This is the news reported to M. Leyrit.

I heard to-day that, on the evening of Friday the 8th,<sup>2</sup> six or seven vessels arrived at Madras to relieve the English besieged in the Fort. I shall write again after learning the facts.

<sup>1</sup> This currency consisted of 10-month bonds carrying 12 per cent interest. However the Council was unable to redeem them as they matured, and they fell accordingly to a considerable discount. Some curious information about them occurs in the proceedings on a suit in the Mayor's Court in 1763 (Mayor's Court Pleadings, 1763, pp. 125, etc.).

<sup>2</sup> February 16.

I hear that Lieutenant-General M. Lally with our French troops besieging the place has reached Poonamallee with his troops on his way to Arcot.

[*Tuesday, February*] 20.<sup>1</sup>—At half-past seven this morning, M. Leyrit inspected the carpenters' shops, the custom-house at the Beach, and the smiths' forge, and the three ships laden with powder, shot and provisions to be despatched to M. Lally's army at Madras. He returned to the *Gouvernement* at half-past nine. M. Barthélemy and M. du Bausset then came and, after talking with [M. Leyrit], departed. There is no other important news.

In consequence of yesterday's proclamation that parchment money should circulate in order to accustom people to its use, the shroffs' and cloth merchants' shops have remained shut since yesterday. When the shroffs, bazaar-men, merchants and others complained of this to M. Barthélemy the Second, he answered that he had nothing to do with the matter and told them to go to M. Leyrit. They accordingly went to him, but Kandappa Mudali told them that it was not the proper time to see him and thus sent them away. They then returned and reported the

<sup>1</sup> 12th [*Mâsi, Bahudânya*].

matter to me. I told them to tell the Governor what the Second had said and dismissed them. In this town formerly abounding in gold and silver, rich gems and diamonds, parchment money now circulates—a sure sign of the town's decay. Men are no longer honest; injustice reigns everywhere; small men receive the Governor's confidence and are entrusted with the management of affairs as dubâshes, so that the Governor is now completely changed and does all these things. What do all these forbode? The town will be wholly ruined unless a Governor like M. Lenoir arrives and re-establishes truth, justice and good government, putting down the present evils. Many say this, and add that these misfortunes will touch not only this town but the whole country.

*Wednesday, February 21.*<sup>1</sup>—At nine o'clock to-day when M. Leyrit was alone in his room, I went and paid him my respects. He asked if I had taken 'Abd-ul-rahmân's house. I replied that I had no right to take it, that, when he was occupying Perumukkal Miyân Sâhib's house, after the departure of the latter's children and others, Miyân Sâhib had brought the matter to the notice of M. Delarche and M. Barthélemy the Second, and got the house

<sup>1</sup> 13th Mâsi, Bahudânya.

back, and that was all I knew of the affair. The Governor then gave me leave, which I accepted and returned home.

*Monday, February 26.*<sup>1</sup>—I heard the following news at half-past ten to-day:—When M. Leyrit left his room and went to the central hall, he was visited by M. Solminiac the chief of the custom-house, who went away after talking with him. Then M. du Bausset visited the Governor. Afterwards M. Clouët and the head-surgeon came and talked with the Governor. M. Moracin then came and was talking with the Governor, so the ship's padré went away as the time was not suitable.

M. Lally is halting with his troops on the Arcot road at a place called Panapâkkam about ten miles from Kâvêripâkkam. Two peons who brought M. Lally's letters to M. Leyrit at ten o'clock said that they had heard that after M. Lally left Madras, he marched towards Arcot by way of Tiruvallûr and Tiruppâchûr.

I also hear that, as M. Leyrit summoned the Choultry-writers and told them that the shroffs and the bazaar-men need not be compelled to accept the parchment money, the bazaars have been opened since yesterday.

<sup>1</sup> 18th Mâsi, Bahudânya.

At about seven this evening the Comte d'Estaing who was taken prisoner of war at Madras arrived here, having given an agreement according to custom that he will not take up arms again and will surrender himself whenever ordered<sup>1</sup>. Two officers who have stood surety for him have also arrived on horseback, but I do not know their names.

As M. Lally by misfortune attacked Madras for two months, without being able to capture it, Mr. Pigot, the Governor of the fort, has earned great glory. Formerly in the year *Vibhava*<sup>2</sup>, Mr. Boscawen, the Unlucky Admiral, attacked Pondichery but retreated without taking it, thus bringing dishonour on himself and great glory on M. Dupleix. In the like manner now Mr. Pigot has earned glory. However no one here is M. Lally's equal in warfare. Madras was plundered, the fort was blown to pieces, the houses within it demolished by shells and levelled with the ground, the walls destroyed and beaten into the ditch, and the attack was so severe that those outside could see those inside the fort, and those within see those without, and yet, despite this fierce attack, the fort was not taken, so that

<sup>1</sup> His subsequent operations at Gombroon and Fort Marlborough were alleged to be violations of this parole. He replied that it was limited to India.

<sup>2</sup> 1748-1749.

Mr. Pigot's glory is proportioned to the difficulty of his task. Nevertheless the wise will perceive that M. Lally is not to blame for failing to take the place, since destiny so decreed. Plainly M. Lally is not to blame. As Sîtârâma Jôsier foretold, Madras escaped this year because Fort St. David was destroyed, but I think that, before the end of *Âni, Pramâdhi*<sup>1</sup>, the French flag will certainly be hoisted over the fortress of Madras, because the Kingdom, I and the French have suffered good and evil up to *Mâsi* this year according to Sîtârâma Jôsier's predictions; and henceforth I and the French will see better days. We shall see what happens. Sîtârâma Jôsier also said that the French could prosper only if I were with them. It is because they have treated me ill and made me an enemy that they have been reduced so low as to be obliged to issue parchment money. It is but just that their misfortunes should coincide with mine. Wise men know that, as soon as I receive the management and am well treated, the French will gain victories and conquer kingdoms. I say this from my past experience and from what had happened to the Governor.

*Tuesday, February 27.*<sup>2</sup>—M. Bussy visited the Governor this morning and had a long

<sup>1</sup> June-July 1759.

<sup>2</sup> 19th *Mâsi, Bahudânya*.