

entertain 500 sepoy who would be completely under his orders and whom he must pay for three months until the arrival of ships. The Europeans, Tamils and other respectable and well-to-do people in the town have been assigned various duties according to their capacity.

The men and women going out are being accompanied by some as far as Cuddalore, Tiruppâdirippuliyûr, Venkatâpêttai, Tiruviti, etc. places. The Christians, the women of Chinna Mudali's house and his relations, have gone to Kârikâl and other places.

The Second said to me this morning that, when the adopted son of Venkatâchala Nâyakkan who is second dubâsh wanted to see and speak with the Governor, he was told that he might do so either at his house or in the Fort.

*Tuesday, March 11.*<sup>1</sup>—M. Guillard, the Second, came to my house this morning and said, 'The council yesterday decided to inform you that as, owing to the acute English troubles, our own people, namely, the King's officers and soldiers, might plunder the town, you and the councillors should be entrusted with posting sepoy to guard the walls of the Fort, you should guard a rampart with 50

<sup>1</sup> 2nd Pangu, Pramâdhi.

sepoy, paying each sepoy six rupees a month or 300 rupees a month in all, and have complete control over them; you should also entertain sepoy to protect the Tamils who should pay them at the proper rates though they should remain under your orders, and you will therefore be their master and they are to obey you and report to you.' I replied, 'The council may be right in giving such orders, and I must obey them and manage the business. But the two jaghir villages of Tirumangalam and Nerkunam which I enjoyed have been seized; the appointment I hold has been merely nominal in recent years, for M. Leyrit did not allow me freedom to do as I thought best, so I remained at home; also I enjoyed a jaghir of five villages in the Devanâmpattanam country which the English seized; and though M. Dupleix wrote about this to the ministers in Europe, the Devanâmpattanam country still remains in their possession, and I am not allowed the enjoyment of the villages. I have to pay about 10,000 rupees for the rice, dhol, ghi, vegetables, fowls, etc., which I have purchased for my own use. My creditors demand payment and my affairs have suffered in many ways. Considering all this, how can M. Leyrit make this demand?' M. Guillard replied, 'What you

say is true, and I shall repeat it in council. But if you will not agree in this emergency, the Tamils will not either, but will be afraid.'—'Then,' I replied, 'I will not refuse at this critical time, when the Company is on the verge of ruin, for I have lived here 50 years under the French flag, serving the Company and eating its food; so that the very blood in my veins is the Company's. I will therefore sell my houses and property and pay 300 rupees *per* month, but do not ask me to manage the business of the sepoys. I cannot undertake the task of controlling them.'—'Very well,' he said, 'I will discuss the matter with M. Leyrit and in council, and let you know.' He then related what had happened and departed.

M. Guillard the Second sent for Tânapa Mudali (Kanakarâya Mudali's younger brother), Periyanna Mudali, Râmachandra Râo and others in the evening and said, 'You should each enlist 50 sepoys, pay them [

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*Wednesday, March 12.*<sup>1</sup>—I heard to-day that the Europeans at Perumbai, the Bound-hedge, etc., had broken into Kosappâlaiyam, Sâram, etc. places, destroying gardens and wells and plundering the houses. I cannot write their

<sup>1</sup> 3rd Panguñi, Pramâdhi.

atrocities. The *dorais* of the town never trouble themselves about such things nor question those who go out or come in; the English horse advanced in two's and three's plundering up to the Bound-hedge. In short, the condition of the town can only be compared with the times of the deluge. It is beyond the *dorais'* power to save us—God alone can.

*Thursday, March 13.*<sup>1</sup>—I hear that council decided to-day that M. Lally and the King's European army should be quartered at the washing-place and that the Company's soldiers and men and the palankin-bearers employed by the Tamils should guard the batteries and Fort ramparts.

Formerly Perumukkal was captured with the Europeans in it. To-day's news is that Âlambarai fort has been captured and the Europeans in it have been sent to Madras as prisoners of war.

The council to-day ordered the Europeans to pay, and they are carrying their goods to the mint. A thousand [ ] for the bearers' pay [ ].

*Friday, March 14.*<sup>2</sup>—There was a council this morning about the money that is needed, and about the news that the English army

<sup>1</sup> 4th Panguñi, Pramâdhi.

<sup>2</sup> 5th Panguñi, Pramâdhi.

which took Âlambarai fort is marching against Valudâvûr. I also hear that several other matters were to have been discussed at the council.

I heard that the people who went to the southwards and were robbed of their goods by Krishna Râo's men on the banks of the Coleroon<sup>1</sup> had taken refuge in the Venkatâmpêttai jungles. The few that still remain in the town are leaving it as the English have taken Âlambarai fort, and to-morrow none will remain.

I hear that letters have been received from Surat.

*Saturday, March 15.*<sup>2</sup>—I think the council met this morning only about money, and the despatch of soldiers from here and the admission of people from outside.

The few that remain are going out to-day.

As the English have captured that fort [

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*Sunday, March 16.*<sup>3</sup>—[The news I heard] at eight o'clock this morning:—The *Haarlem*, which was taken at a price from the Dutch, returned from Tenasserim at a quarter past one this morning with wheat, rice, sugar, sugarcandy, lead, tutenague, and planks and

<sup>1</sup> Cf. Orme, ii, 625-626.

<sup>2</sup> 6th Panguni, Pramâdhi.

<sup>3</sup> 7th Panguni, Pramâdhi.

dust<sup>1</sup>, after touching at Ganjam where she took in some paddy and rice. Being out of sight of land, she made her land-fall near Kûnimêdu and was close in at sunrise. The breeze prevented her from putting back, and then an English ship sighted her and opened fire; when the sound of guns was heard here, 200 or 300 soldiers were despatched in four boats, and M. Lally himself went with the European guards by land. But in the mean time the French ship unable to resist the enemy's fire, put back to Bommayyapâlaiyam, one of the English shots having struck her mast and set fire to her. The men on board escaped, but the value of the goods lost and of the ship herself must be two lakhs of rupees.<sup>2</sup> This was brought about by the mischance of her sailing northwards after sighting the shore, and people are very much troubled at this misfortune.

*Monday, March 17.*<sup>3</sup>—Shaikh Dukki told me yesterday to visit the Fort, but, as I am unwell, I sent Appâvu this morning. On his going upstairs at the *Gouvernement*, M. Guillard the Second asked him why he had come. He replied, 'Last night Shaikh Dukki, captain of the sepoy, came and said he had M. Lally's orders to summon the caste-people

<sup>1</sup> Sic. Perhaps she had some sand aboard as ballast.

<sup>2</sup> Cf. Orme, ii, 616.

<sup>3</sup> 8th Panguni, Pramâdhi.

