

*Saturday, May 3.*<sup>1</sup>—I went to M. Courtin's and complained of my son's<sup>2</sup> imprisonment in the Fort although I had nothing. But he only replied obstinately and harshly that he would transport him to Mascareigne. M. Boyelleau then came, and he said to M. Courtin, 'You know it is not right to treat him so unjustly.' Having asked me to withdraw, he added, 'You know that letters about his business to the council from the Company and the ministers have been received from Europe; you should explain everything to M. Lally and M. Leyrit, and settle the affair.' As M. Courtin still insisted, the former said, 'The townspeople and the rest should not be sacrificed like this till we can no longer keep a foot-hold ashore.' But, in spite of all M. Boyelleau could say, M. Courtin persisted. M. Boyelleau therefore left him and, coming out, told me that he could do nothing with M. Courtin for me or the townspeople. He then went away.

Afterwards I returned to plead with M. Courtin; but he continued in the same strain, adding harshly that, if I did not pay, I too should be shipped off to Mascareigne. I replied, 'I have already decided to go to Europe and so your words are welcome; if

<sup>1</sup> 25th Chittirai, Vikrama.

<sup>2</sup> Appavu, the Diarist's nephew seems intended.

you will put my relations and the townspeople with me aboard ship, I will visit Europe and return.' Then M. Porcher and his wife said, 'The Tamils have their money outside, and if time be allowed, they will get it and pay.' I answered, 'Have we made lakhs like the Europeans and sent the money out in chests? How can those who serve the Europeans and trade in cloth be expected to have any money to send out?' So saying I came home.

*Sunday, May 4.*<sup>1</sup>—M. Dubois sent for me at noon to-day, so I went. He showed me a list of 60 persons assessed for a total of 5,85,400 rupees, and asked me about it. I replied that the amount was only visible on paper and could not be realized. 'Well,' he said, 'come back to-morrow and we will talk about it.' I then came home.

As an English ship ventured in-shore, our ships in-shore<sup>2</sup> and the ramparts opened fire until the captain of the English ship put out to sea again. As the English horse also appeared near the Bound-hedge on the west, our people in Lakshmana Nāyakkan's Choultry and Perumbai retired to Ella Pillai's Choultry

<sup>1</sup> 26th Chittirai, Vikrama.

<sup>2</sup> Sic. There were at least three vessels—the *Compagnie des Indes* and two frigates—lying as near in as they could be got. The *Compagnie des Indes* was equipped as a floating battery.

and the Bounds. For fear that the sums mentioned in the list should be collected, those who still remained in the town, Christians and others, left it to-day.

*Monday, May 5.*<sup>1</sup>—When I went to M. Dubois' house this afternoon, Râmalinga Pillai was there. We two with Ayyan Sâstri and Gôpâlakrishna Ayyan—four persons in all—wrote till nine o'clock at night, when I came home saying that I would consider the writing at home and bring it on the morrow.

*Tuesday, May 6.*<sup>2</sup>—Râmalinga Pillai, Ayyan Sâstri, and Gôpâlakrishna Ayyan came to my house this morning. We four wrote a list for 90,000 rupees out of the list of 60 persons for 5,85,000 and odd rupees, besides selecting fifty or sixty names out of the list of 160 names, and thus made up a lakh and a half of rupees. I got this list written in French at [ ] o'clock this evening and told Râmalinga Pillai, Ayyan Sâstri and Gôpâlakrishna Ayyan to give it to M. Dubois and inform him that I would speak to him to-morrow morning.

*Wednesday, May 7.*<sup>3</sup>—I went to M. Dubois' house this morning and read to him the list prepared yesterday. He then sent for the several people and questioned them.

<sup>1</sup> 27th Chittirai, Vikrama.

<sup>2</sup> 28th Chittirai, Vikrama.

<sup>3</sup> 29th Chittirai, Vikrama.

I observed that the amounts set against each name might be a hundred more or a hundred less, but that there would not be much difference. 'Very well,' he replied and told me to include the names of Kandappa Mudali, Periyanna Mudali, Savarirâya Pillai and writer Rangappa Mudali, and show amounts for each. I replied, 'I do not know their ability. Kandappa Mudali and others have held appointments only for the last three years, while Periyanna Mudali has already paid a lakh of rupees, Savarirâya Pillai 30,000 rupees and Kandappa Mudali 50,000, besides 30,000 paid towards the expenses of the Company's carriage-bullocks for which he has receipts from M. Lally and M. Leyrit. They say that they are already in debt and I do not know what they have left. Nor do I know what Rangappa Mudali's son has. You *dorais* may therefore fix the amounts,'—'Very well, you may go home,' he said. So I came home. M. Dubois went and showed the list to M. Leyrit. The latter sent for me and when I went to the Fort, M. Leyrit, M. Dubois, M. Guillard and M. Courtin were present. They asked if I was not ashamed to leave my younger brother's son in prison. I replied, 'Why should I be ashamed? I have earned all glory in the town, though now I am dishonoured.'—'Don't speak like that,'