

is a prisoner here, has obtained an English passport and is sailing for Madras by masula boat. All the inhabitants are sending their goods. I will send your things, if any, saying that they are mine.' I said I would do as he desired. I then asked if the Englishman was a gentleman. He replied, 'He is an officer and a Christian. We may tell an official at the Beach to send the goods, giving out that they are his.'—'Very well,' I replied, 'go and consult him and then report to me.'

*Tuesday, September 23.*¹—There is no important news to-day.

*Wednesday, September 24.*²—Kônappa [*sic*] Chetti came to me at five o'clock this evening and said, 'Sloper,³ the French prisoner who has obtained an English passport, is sailing at six o'clock by a chelinga which he has got. I spoke to M. Valarmée about the affair you mentioned. He told me to send the box to his house at once and he would have it landed at Sadras. He added that, if it was sent at once, he would send it by this boat.' As I could send nothing out by land in the present state of affairs, as I was arranging to send away the women and children, as this European was going with an English passport, so that he

¹ 11th *Purattāsi*, *Vikrama*.

² 12th *Purattāsi*, *Vikrama*.

³ Cf. vol. xi, p. 191.

would not be suspected, and as some Tamils and packer Tiruvēngadam were said to be going with their goods, all these inclined me to accept the proposal in view of the nature of the times, so I asked, 'Are you also going?' He replied, 'I am not sure, for I wish to go with my women and children, but if you want me to go, I will go. But you need not hesitate, and had better send the box and your people.' As I could think of no better course, I called Chiranjīvi Appāvu and said, 'As this man says so and so, a redwood box containing everything, is in the great chest. Get it ready and send it off.' Kondappa Chetti said, 'It is about six now, so send everything at once. I will go ahead and speak to the European about despatching everything.' He then went away, after I had told him to arrange for the speedy despatch. Kâlathi Ammâl's¹ goods and some rupees were put in nine bags and Lakshmi Ammâl's goods in two chests. These were locked up, bound about with ropes and sealed with my ring engraved with Persian, and the keys were given to Ponmalai Pillai. I also sent Kastûri Chetti in the boat with Ponmalai Pillai, with orders to land the chests at Sadras, where they were to get a great chest from Mattu Venkatâchala Chetti, put the other chests in

¹ Wife of Tiruvēngada Pillai, the Diarist's younger brother.

it, and remain there. These two set out with the boxes at six o'clock. Afterwards some packets of coral and a figure of the *Uma*¹ bird set with precious stones, (which had not been put in), were given to Subbarâman with instructions to give them to Ponmalai Pillai and Kastûri Chetti and to inform me of their having actually sailed. Kandan was also instructed to accompany them with Chiranjîvi Kulandai's goods and money from Muttu's house sealed up in a bag. Subrahmanyân [*sic*] returned at half-past seven and said that Ponmalai Pillai and Kastûri Chetti had sailed by the boat fully laden with my chests and others' goods, that packer Tiruvêngadam had also set sail and that some chests and packages belonging to certain Europeans and Tamils had been left behind.

Till now I have been under the influence of the *Apasavya* sign, according to the predictions, so that I and the town as that influence drew to an end have been in trouble. Either a new Governor with reinforcements must come to save the town or I must leave it. I have only waited to see what signs of the future course of events appeared by the 12th *Purattâsi*; as I expected, my goods have been sent away to-day. At the end of the influence of the

¹ Cf. Wilks, vol. i, p. 261 and n.

Apasavya sign everything should be settled. The influence of the *Savya* sign begins on the 21st of *Panguni*¹ and my fortune thereafter is to be seen by actual experience.

Yesterday Panon and Gôpâlakrishna Ayyan were removed and M. Guillard was entrusted with the management.

¹ March 30, 1761.

JANUARY 1761.

*Saturday, January 10.*¹—At six o'clock this morning, Ellâchiya Pillai (M. Leyrit's dubâsh) came and said to Mahârâja Râjasrî Pillai Avargal [that Chinna Mudali had arranged last night to send his family away, that a chelinga should be got ready, and that he wanted a letter. So I went to the Fort to hire a boat; there Chinna Mudali told me that the chelinga had not yet sailed but that it would to-night. Afterwards I went to M. Valarmée and requested him to procure a chelinga large enough to hold many. He replied, 'A chelinga like that won't do. Even if M. Lally gives an order for another boat, there are no *makwas*²']³. So I went to the Beach to make enquiries. M. Flacourt was there preparing the chelinga which is to sail to-night, but he said that not one could be despatched. I then met a ship's pilot who was enquiring the price of chelingas in order to sail with some Europeans, and offered to

¹ *1st Tai, Vikrama.* From this date onwards the diary appears to have been written, not by Ranga Pillai himself, but by another, perhaps Ranga Pillai's nephew who continued to keep a diary after Ranga Pillai's death.

² Fishermen.

³ The passage placed between square brackets is much damaged in the original, but the meaning seems clear.

find the cost of a chelinga besides other expenses and having arranged for eight sailors and only 4 or 5 persons to follow. But, when I reported this to Mahârâja Râjasrî Pillai Avargal, he replied that in his present state of health, it would kill him to sail by the chelinga, that arrangements should be made for him to travel by road, that therefore a chelinga need not be engaged, and that the European concerned in this should be informed without delay. When I went to the Beach in search of the European at three o'clock after having taken food, I found him south of the Fort. He said, 'I consulted those who were accompanying me; and as you were coming, I sent away many in order to avoid overcrowding, arranged for the price of the chelinga and only four persons to follow, and asked for M. Lally's orders. But M. Lally said that, as there was no other chelinga, it could not be taken, as there would be difficulties on the arrival of ships. So the journey has been stopped.' I came home after giving the necessary orders.

*Sunday, January 11.*¹—[Mahârâja Râjasrî Pillai Avargal rose in the morning and cleaned his teeth, and, sitting on a chair in the hall, talked for about two hours and then lay

¹ *2nd Tai, Vikrama.*

down. Having awakened at eleven, he called us and said, 'I feel very weak but I do not know why. How is my breathing?'—'As usual,' we replied, 'but you are very weak from taking no food and from an excess of humours of the body.'] When we were thus talking, some Europeans came to cut down the coconut trees in my house and my neighbour Muttu Pillai's. I spoke kind words to them, gave them a few rupees and posted men to see that the trees did not fall upon the roof.

At one o'clock in the afternoon Mahârâja Râjasrî Pillai Avargal took a little food, and then lay down. In the evening he said that he felt much fatigued, that he could not sleep, and that his tongue was dry and he felt thirsty. I said that a *karukku*¹ would be prepared. He agreed, and took the *karukku* at eight o'clock at night. He called us again at ten and saying that the *karukku* had not quenched his thirst, asked if he could not have some water. I said that he had better not, but that another dose of the *karukku* would do him good. He agreed and ordered it to be brought. We therefore prepared a fresh *karukku* and gave it to him. Again he complained of thirst and asked for some cold water. I replied that he should not drink that but eat

¹ The expression means an extract or strained liquor prepared by boiling medicinal drugs in water.

some nut. He answered that as his mouth was dry, he could not chew it. I said that he might have some warm water in about an hour. 'Very well,' he said, and continued, 'I want to answer the calls of nature, so order the commode.' It was accordingly brought and placed in the veranda. He answered the calls of nature, washed his legs and then sat on a chair. I cannot describe how this fatigued him. He called us and said, 'I thought I should die on the stool for I felt a burning pain round the anus. But does a person at the point of death feel like that? I think it must be due to extreme heat.' He then lay down telling us to make further enquiries about it. Afterwards he said at two o'clock that his tongue was parched, that he was thirsty and very tired, and that he thought he would die. He then asked what we thought of his condition. I replied that I thought that coldness had set in and that therefore he should take *bhûpati* or *chintâmani*.¹ 'Well get them ready,' he replied. As I had no good honey, I thought I could get it from Sêshâchala Chetti's house

¹ Elaborate and costly medicines familiar to the Tamil School of Indian Medicine. The first, for instance, is said to be compounded of gold, zinc, pearl, diamond, coral, topaz, emerald, sulphur, mercury and several other ingredients. From information courteously furnished by Mr. G. Srinivâsamûrti, Principal of the Government School of Indian Medicine at Madras.

to-morrow morning, but meanwhile I would give him [what we had]. So I had a mixture made of honey and cloves, and took it to him. He then asked me the time. I said it was about five. He then said that we might put aside the medicine and wait till day-break when Sêshâchala Chetti might be sent for and asked to feel his pulse.

*Monday, January 12.*¹—After sunrise this morning I asked Mahârâja Râjasrî Pillai Avargal if Mutta Pillai of the hospital and Sêshâchala Chetti might be sent for. 'Very well, send for them,' he replied. I sent men to fetch them. He continued, 'I feel much better than last night. Let me clean my teeth.' So saying he sat on a chair in the hall and cleaned his teeth. Vêlan came and said that Mutta Pillai of the hospital had gone away five or six days ago. Seeing that Sêshâchala Chetti was coming, he said that nothing need be said to him except that he was arranging for palankin-bearers to bring him to his house. Sêshâchala Chetti then came and sitting on a chair asked him if he had taken his food last night to which he replied that he had, and then, stretching out his hand, asked him to feel his pulse. He said he could not feel it. 'Is that so?' he replied; 'palan-

¹ 3rd Tai, Vikrama.

kin-bearers are coming to take me to your house. You had better go soon, and make a cot, etc., ready.' So saying he dismissed him. He went away saying that he would do accordingly. After he had gone, he said, 'What is the use of telling him anything when he does not know how to feel the pulse? Send for some other who can.' When I made enquiries, I learnt that Saravana Mudali knew a little; but when I sent a man to fetch him, I was told that he had gone to the European quarter. He then sent for [lost] and showing his tongue said, 'Look at my tongue. [Lost] has subsided. The dryness of the tongue has also abated a little; I shall take some medicine.' I replied, 'However, it will be better to take the medicine prepared last night.'—'Of what use is it?' he answered. 'Will a dying man recover by the mere taking of a medicine or die by not taking it? Let me see later on.' So saying, he lay down.

Chinna [?] Mudali came at ten o'clock and said, 'I shall leave my family outside and return. If a letter is given to me addressed to Chidambaranâtha Pillai, it can be given to him so that arrangements may be made on the way by his men or others and I may return to-morrow afternoon.' I reported this to Pillai Avargal. He said that a letter might be written to Chidambaranâtha Pillai saying,

'You have paid no attention in spite of my having sent many men to you. You may not see me hereafter.' He told me to write such a peremptory letter and have it despatched. I wrote one and brought it to him for his signature. He got up and sat, ordered the two doors to be opened, and putting on his glasses, signed it, adding, 'This must be considered my last letter.' I read the letter and wondering why he wrote so, put it in a cover and gave it to Saravana [?] Mudali to be despatched. Afterwards [his] body was very¹[]

¹ Here the diary breaks off in the middle of a sentence and the subsequent pages are blank.

APPENDIX.

(See above, page 36, n. 3.)

LETTER FROM CALL TO DRAPER, 15TH JULY, 1760 (NEWCASTLE MSS., BRIT. MUS., ADD. MSS. 32908, F. 299, ETC.),

" . . . The conquest of Karikal I had an eye on, and had been making the necessary enquiries of its strength. The arrival of Mr. Cornish with six ships about the latter end of February was a lucky circumstance, and put us in a condition to attempt Karikal without weakening the Army while Colonel Coote proceeded therewith to attack Waldour and block up Pondicherry by land. Some opposition was at first made to this plan, in which jealousy had its share, but on the 24th March Major Monson embarked to command the siege, Barker the Artillery, and I with 50 Pioneers as engineer. These with seven gunners were all the troops we had, but 100 military, 40 artillery and 1,000 sepoy were to join us from Terichnapoly and invest the place if possible before our arrival. Guns, mortars and ammunition we had shipped aboard in plenty. By favourable winds we got into the road of Karikal the 28th in the morning, and sent to Nagapatam and Tranquebar to learn advice of Joseph and Dick Smith with the garrison of Terichnapoly. Everybody on the Coast was ignorant of them and surpriz'd to see us. Monson was willing to lose no time and therefore resolved to land directly, though we had no one thing or convenience for subsisting. Accordingly on the same day at five in the evening 296 Marines and the Pioneers were embarked in boats, and we all pushed on shore about 4 miles to the northward of Karikal, luckily without opposition. Thus landed without baggage, coolies, or even an interpreter, and with troops wholly unacquainted with land service, we marched