

CHAP. IV. are to be legal tender in Pondichery. It is further
 1739. decided that pagodas of $7\frac{3}{4}$ touches shall also be lawful
 Another standard to be legal tender under certain conditions.
 tender, provided that a premium of 4 pagodas is paid on every hundred such. Be it observed, as an imperative order, by all the merchants and inhabitants—European or native—of Pondichery, or who come thither from other parts of the country, that pagodas of less than $7\frac{3}{4}$ touches are not legal tender. Those who have such coins in their possession are required to present all at the mint, the officers of which will clip them, paying the value thereof, calculated according to the degree of their fineness, to the owners. Those who contravene these instructions will, on conviction, be liable to pay the fine imposed by the order passed in Council on 6th May 1738. The money-changers, and those who trade in gold and silver, must strictly adhere to this rule. If any person be found circulating money of less than $7\frac{3}{4}$ touches, the coins in their possession shall be forfeited, and they taken before the Deputy Governor, who acts as judge in the court, and the Councillor who has control of the mint. Those who withhold information will render themselves liable to the fine already prescribed.”

Copies of this order have been posted in several parts of the town for the information of the public. It was passed in the Hall of the Supreme Council this 11th day of May 1739, and is signed by the Governor M. Dumas, M. Legou, M. Dulaurens, M. Signard, M. Ingrand, and M. Miran.

Calls in all other coins.

Directs strict obedience of order.

Penalty for disobedience.

Copies of order posted in public places.

Saturday, 23rd May 1739, or 13th Vaigâsi of Sid-dhârti.—M. Dupleix's ship, *Chandernagore*, arrived at noon this day from Surat, and brought the following intelligence. Tahmasp Quli Khân, of the tribe of Iran, who was, by the grace of God, the Shâh of Persia, and governed his kingdom from Isfahan, increased in power to such a degree that he fought with the Sultân of Turkey, and vanquished him. He next turned his attention to the conquest of Delhi, and sent a defiant message to the Moghul Emperor, who challenged him to war. Tahmasp Quli Khân left Isfahan in 1738, with 60,000 cavalry, subdued various chiefs on his way—the Sultân of Turani amongst the number—and having levied tribute from them, marched against Lahore, the principal city of the Empire of Delhi. The fort there, fell into his hands. The Emperor was exceedingly wroth, and commanded the Nizâm and other nobles subject to him to march against the invader: they offered battle to him, and were defeated. The news of this reverse only enraged the Emperor, who again urged his nobles to fight against the invader. But Tahmasp Quli Khân, who was favoured by Heaven, again proved victorious. He next marched against Delhi, captured the city, made the Emperor Muḥammad Shâh and the nobles prisoners, and one day ordered that he and the twenty or twenty-five nobles who had been captured, should be executed in public, in the market place. He afterwards commanded that coins should be struck in his name, and

CHAP. IV.

1739.
Arrival of Chandernagore from Surat.

News brought by her.

Invasion of India by Tahmasp Quli Khan.

Defeats the troops of the Emperor of Delhi.

Captures Delhi.

Alleged execution of Emperor.

Quli Khan orders new coins to be struck.

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1739. from the current money. A mandate was accordingly sent to the Nawâb of Surat, who was directed to suppress the coins struck by Muḥammad Shâh, and to issue new ones bearing the legend "By the grace of God, Nâdir Shâh, Emperor." The Nawâb of Surat was further commanded to issue his charters under the authority of the new Emperor, bearing a seal with the above inscription, and to inflict a fine of Rs. 600 on every one who uttered the name "Tahmasp Quli Khân," when speaking of the new Emperor; who was henceforth to be designated "Nâdir Shâh, Emperor by the grace of God." On receipt of this mandate, the Nawâb of Surat caused it to be proclaimed throughout the city, and ordered the issue of coins with the new legend. The old ones, as is known, had a circular rim, but the new ones were pointed at one end; and this too, it is said, was by the order of the new Emperor. Such was the intelligence made known by the Governor, the Councillors, and M. Élias, as having come from Surat. The ship which brought this news also carried the usual articles of merchandise.

ASSUMES ON these name of Nadir Shah.

Punishment for calling him by other name.

Distinction between new and old coins.

Reflections on fate of Emperor.

If such, indeed, be the fate that befell the Emperor of Delhi, need we wonder at the calamities that overtake ordinary men? Of what avail is the power and wealth of kings, on this earth? These are perishable. The Heaven of the All-merciful God is the only thing that endures. All others perish.

I have stated before, that the Emperor of Delhi was beheaded. Later intelligence from there however contradicts this, although it confirms the rest of the news. It is now stated that he was only imprisoned. It is also said that the Nizâm was secretly in league with the invader. A month later, the story came that Muḥammad Shâh was reinstated on the throne; that his daughter was married to the son of Tahmasp Quli Khân; and that the invader, after taking everything in the treasury of the Emperor, had crossed the Attock river, overrun Multan and Cabul, and was on his way to his own dominions. By the irruption of Nâdir Shâh many merchants at Delhi were impoverished. Many men were put to death, and many women committed suicide. It is estimated that between 100,000 and 150,000 men and women perished in this way. This is the estimate given in the letter written to the Armenians.

Saturday, 6th June 1739, or 27th Vaigâsi of Siddhârti.—This afternoon at about 4, an English ship, bound for Madras, anchored off Pondichery, when a catamaran was despatched to her, and the captain sent back by it two letters from certain persons in France—one addressed to M. Dumas, and the other to Father Lolière of the church opposite to my house; and these were accompanied by a third, written by himself. They were handed to the Governor who, on perusing that for him, learnt that Father Lolière was appointed to the bishopric of Siam. He at once ordered his palanquin, and taking

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1739. Beheading of Emperor contradicted.

Reported later on to have been reinstated.

Retirement of Nadir Shah.

Effects of the invasion.

English ship lands certain letters.

Letters to Governor and Father Lolière.

Letter appointed Bishop of Siam.