people living outside the ramparts were ordered, by beat of tom-tom, to come into the fort; and at 6 in the evening, all the gates were shut.

Tuesday, 27th December 1740, or 10th Mārgazhi of Rasadri.—The following intelligence was made known this morning. It seems that yesterday, half-a-dozen Mahratta horsemen were seen to the west of Cuddalore, and a scout was sent thence to observe their movements. Before, however, he could start on his mission, it looked as though the enemy were approaching the town. Therupon, two shots were fired from the ramparts of Tirupāppuliyūr, and they fled. The scout was soon on their track. He was observed, and one of the horsemen gave chase, and struck at him with a sword. The scout carried a cudgel, and aiming a blow at his opponent, knocked the weapon from his grasp; he then went to Fort St. David, and reported the whole affair to the Governor there, who was pleased, and presented him with two yards of broad-cloth, seven pagodas, and twenty measures of rice. A little later, on the same day, a party of fifty or sixty Mahratta horsemen was seen by the garrison of Bāhūr, hovering near that place; twenty or thirty musket shots fired at the horsemen put them to flight. The commanding officer came to Pondichery yesterday evening; and it is reported that the Mahrattas therupon plundered the country around Bāhūr.

At 8 this morning, people came hurrying into Pondichery, bearing intelligence that the Mahrattas had pillaged the houses at Tenāpāl, and that their cavalry had advanced as far as Villianallūr, Īshtu tank, Arumpāṭai Pillāi's choultry, and Ozhukarai, ill-treating and plundering the passers by. At 9, the Governor sent a detachment of soldiers to Ozhukarai; they being accompanied by Muttaiyā Pillāi, and fifty sepoys. The mounted men and sepoys who were in attendance on the Muhammadan visitors at Pondicherry were also called out, and sent to Ozhukarai. Before they could arrive there, they learnt that the Mahrattas had gone to Vazhudāvūr. They thereupon returned, and reached Pondichery at 4 in the afternoon.

The history of the Mahratta depredations, as contained in a letter written from Porto Novo, is as follows:—On the morning of Saturday, the 13th [24th December], 2,000 Mahratta horsemen started from Tiruvanṇāmalai, ostensibly to go to Trichinopoly. They rode due south as far as Tyāgadrug; then turned eastwards, and arrived at Vridhāchālam in the night. The distance between Tiruvanṇāmalai and Vridhāchālam is fifty miles. The detour made by them to the south was ten miles. They thus rode sixty miles in one day. The next morning, they left Vridhāchālam, and arrived at midday, at about eighteen Indian hours after sunrise, at Porto Novo, covering fifty miles, and thus completing the whole distance of 110 miles in a day and a-half. The Mahratta freebooters occupied Chitrachāvadi, about two miles to the west of Porto Novo, and maltreated
and robbed the travellers who passed that way. In the meantime, two peons bearing letters started from the Dutch factory for Negapatam. When they approached Chirachāvadi, they perceived the marauders and came running back, warning every one whom they met of the presence, in the vicinity, of the Mahratta horse. In a short time, the people flocked, with their movables, into the factory, from all quarters of Porto Novo. It was crowded; and those who could not find room in the buildings of the factory itself, ran to the native craft lying near the river bank, and got into them for safety. Every one of these was calculated to hold some forty or fifty persons, but this being a time of peril, between 200 and 300 entered each, so that they grounded and could not be moved. Six or seven other boats, fully laden with cloths, were moored near the bank; one of them carried bales belonging to Chakkaraiyappa Mudali, another those of Nachiyappa Mudali, the third those of Anjiyappa Mudali, the fourth contained my goods, the fifth those of Kunja Pillai, and the remaining two had on board the stocks of retail merchants. The 2,000 Mahratta horsemen now hove in sight. Five hundred of these advanced towards the river bank on the southern side of the town, whilst 500 more moved to the northern; and thus the whole 1,000 completely surrounded it as though in a net, and entering it from all sides, dispersed in small parties of three or four, pillaging every house. Those who remained in their dwellings were beaten, and plundered of everything. Only a cubit length of cloth was given to them to cover their nakedness. Some were forced to hold the horses of their captors, whilst others were made to carry the spoils of the conquerors on their heads. In the meantime, the body of horse which had marched in the direction of the river bank caught sight of the boats, and forced those who had taken refuge in them to come out. The people were stripped, and robbed of everything; some were wounded, and others were soundly whipped. Some threw themselves into the river to make their escape, and twelve of these perished. The Mahrattas next hauled the craft which were laden with merchandise up to the bank, and seized their contents. Only one escaped their violence, and as luck would have it, it was that which carried my property. It was lying stranded a little way from the others; consequently, the goods were not captured, and the men in it were left unmolested. The 500 horsemen next rode to the Dutch factory, the gates of which were shut against them. Whilst this was going on, 500 of the 1,000 mounted troops who were engaged in pillaging the town appeared on the northern side of the factory, which was now surrounded by 1,000 men. Some of these occupied themselves in breaking in the wicket of the gate, and others threw rope-ladders over the tops of the buildings, and succeeding in climbing up, lowered themselves into them. The gate was now forced, and the whole of the Mahratta horse rushed
Into the factory. Every one there was seized, and stripped stark naked. Some received sword-cuts, and others were scourged with whips. They were each given two cubits length of cloth, and driven out of the fort. Deputy Governor Astruc, his wife and three daughters, and seven or eight Dutchmen, were made prisoners. The Mahattas left the fort with their captives and spoil, some of the respectable inhabitants of the place being forced to serve as carriers; and at 6 in the evening they pitched their camp on a plain two miles outside of the town. Those who had been made to do duty as porters were then driven away, but the European captives were detained all night. They were released only the next morning, and were sent back to the factory in the custody of sixty horsemen. These men ransacked the place, and took whatever had escaped the marauders on the previous day. The value of the plunder of the factory may be estimated at 1,00,000 pagodas, and that of the town at 50,000, giving a total spoil of 1,50,000 pagodas. Such were the contents of the letter from Porto Novo.

Friday, 30th December 1740, or 19th Mârgâshi of Raudri.—This morning at 8, the French ship Comte de Toulouse, captain, M. Porte-barre, which had been to Manilla, reached the roadstead. She has on board 250 Acheen horses, bales of Indian hemp, sulphur.

* Blank in the original.