

CHAP. IX. [Wednesday, 5th June 1743, or] 26th Vaigasi of Rudrōtkāri.—This afternoon at 4, a man who had committed theft in the house of a Muhammadan at Mīrāpalli was executed on the gallows in front of the court-house.

1743.  
Execution  
of a thief.

Arrival of  
*Phénix* from  
France.

Sunday, 16th June 1743, or 6th Āni of Rudrōtkāri.—The ship *Phénix*, captain, M. Brossay, arrived this morning from France. The number of boxes of silver on board her is . . . \*

Arrival of  
*Argonaute*  
from  
France.

Monday, 17th June 1743, or 7th Āni of Rudrōtkāri.—The *Argonaute*, captain, M. Aubin, reached this from France to-day. The boxes of silver received by her numbered . . . \*

Arrival of  
Portuguese  
ship.

A Portuguese ship arrived this day. She is the same that came in the year Pramādīcha [1733] from Goa to Porto Novo, and was laden at the latter place with merchandise. It is reported that she has on board vast quantities of silver and gold. M. Moullineau is the captain and supercargo.

Alleged to  
carry vast  
treasures.

Lensing of  
villages  
near Pondi-  
chery.

Tuesday, 25th June 1743, or 15th Āni of Rudrōtkāri.—This day, the villages forming the suburbs of Pondichery, and Murungappākkam, were leased for five years, at a yearly rental of 944 pagodas and 751 pagodas, respectively, to Kumara Pillai, Virā Nāyakkam, Chandramadi Pillai, and Ella Pillai. These four men asked me to stand surety for them, and I accordingly signed the lease with them. It runs for five years, from July 1743.

Diarist  
stands  
security  
for renters.

\* Blank in the original.

There was a remarkable occurrence this day. The slave-dealer, Paramānandan, was arrested, and cast into the fort prison, with chains on his wrists and ankles. M. Soude, who serves under M. [Cornet \*] the keeper of the warehouse in the fort, commissioned Paramānandan to bring him slaves, and gave him a certain sum of money for that purpose. Paramānandan sent out his men to collect these; they purchased some, and inveigled others into their clutches. They either mixed some deleterious material in the lime which their victims used with their betel and nut, or placed them under a spell by means of the magic paint which they carried in a box in their hands, and then overpowering them, reduced them to slavery. Many slaves were thus acquired, and brought into Pondichery. The way in which the matter became known to the authorities was this. One Manilla Malaiyappan, who lived in Pondichery, and had no employment, used to visit Paramānandan. He observed what was going on, and communicated it to Irusappa Muttu Chetti and Kudaikkāra Rangappan. They went, with four other Chettis, to the place where the slaves were confined, and on the plea of inspecting the horses which were there for sale, entered the building where the captives, consisting of four Chetti men and one Chetti woman, were. These claimed relationship with the visitors, ran to them, fell at their feet,

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1743.  
Paramānandan, a  
slave-dealer  
imprisoned.

Commis-  
sioned by  
M. Soude  
to procure  
slaves.

He kidnaps  
them.

Manner  
in which  
detected.

\* Blank in the original. There is no doubt from passages elsewhere that the missing name is Cornet.

CHAP. IX.

1743.  
Details of  
method of  
kidnapping.

and wept. On being questioned, one man said that he was inveigled into the building, on promise of being employed as a cooly to carry a bag, and that when he entered his head was shaved, and fetters were placed on his legs. Another stated that he was offered betel, lightly smeared with lime, to chew, and that when he partook of it he was seized with giddiness, and was led away. A third individual said that he was asked to come into the building, to see an entertainment, and that as soon as he entered it, he was made a captive and his head was shaved. The visitors also learnt how the persons engaged in the slave traffic had enticed wood-cutters and grass-cutters into the building, on pretence of buying the articles which they had to dispose of. It further transpired that these kidnapers possessed a house in a village near Tranquebar, and that they were in the habit of alluring thither the people living in the hamlets to the west of that place. Batches of fifty or a hundred individuals were imprisoned, at one time, in the building. They were conveyed, during the night, in a boat to Ariyânkuppam, where they were confined in a house belonging to Paramâندان. Here their heads were shaved, black cloths were given them to wear, and each individual had a fetter placed on one leg. During the night, they were removed again, and brought to the house of M. Soude, where they were put into the slave prison until a vessel came to take them away. When it arrived, they were placed in

Treatment  
of those  
kidnapped.

boats, and carried on board. This occurred three or four times, but these proceedings have not transpired until now, when they were brought to light by Irusappa Muttu Chetti, and Rangappan. These men went to M. Soude, and stated to him that many persons had been kidnapped, and confined as slaves in the building, and that there were some amongst the number, who were known to them. They asked for an inquiry. M. Soude stated that he had bought all the people with his own money, but nevertheless he held an investigation, and ascertained that there were five persons who had been entrapped under false pretences. He sent them away to Kanakarâya Mudali, who passed them on to Irusappa Muttu Chetti. The latter, fearing the consequences, refused to receive them. Thereupon, M. Soude came to see Kanakarâya Mudali, Sêshâchala Chetti, Irusappa Muttu Chetti, and me, at our respective houses, and entreated us to settle the affair quietly. We refused to interfere, stating that it was not any longer possible to hush things up. Kanakarâya Mudali went in the morning to the Governor, and reported the whole matter. Some of the Company's peons were sent to bring Paramâندان. When they called out for him at his house, one Arulânandan, who was within, escaped by scaling the walls of the backyard, and hid himself in the Mission Church. Paramâندان, however, was arrested and taken to the fort prison. M. Soude was dismissed from his appointment; M. Cornet, his

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1743.

M. Soude  
alleges  
that he  
purchased  
them.Seeks to  
have the  
matter  
hushed up.Occurrence  
reported to  
Governor.Paramâ-  
ندان  
imprisoned  
and M.  
Soude  
dismissed.

CHAP. IX. superior officer, was sent for, and directed to take  
1743. charge of accounts, etc., from him; and another  
European was appointed as his successor.

Arrival of  
ship from  
France.

*Friday, 5th July 1743, or 25th Âni of Rudrôt-kâri.*—This afternoon at about 2, a ship arrived from France. The news brought by her is . . . \*

Kanakarâya Mudali brings presents to M. Dupleix, in honour of approaching marriages of his daughters.

*Sunday, 21st July 1743, or 9th Âdi of Rudrôt-kâri.*—At 7 this evening, Kanakarâya Mudali took to the house of the Governor some presents in honour of the marriages of his daughters,† which are shortly to take place. They consisted of rolls of silk valued at . . . , \* fruit, etc., worth . . . \*

Arrival of Mîr Ghulam Husain.

Mîr Ghulâm Husain arrived this evening at 5, on his way to the camp, from the fort at Gingee.

Diarist sends gifts on account of the coming marriages.

*Monday, 22nd July 1743, or 10th Âdi of Rudrôt-kâri.*—This evening at 7, my presents on account of the approaching weddings of the two daughters of the Governor were conveyed from my residence to that of the Governor, borne by sixty or seventy men accompanied by tom-toms, music, torches, and a display of fireworks. My gifts were the following . . . \*

Seshachala Chetti does the same.

*Tuesday, 23rd July 1743, or 11th Âdi of Rudrôt-kâri.*—The Company's merchant Seshâchala Chetti despatched at 7 this evening his presents of fruit and other articles.

\* Blank in the original.

† These were the step-daughters of M. Dupleix—the Mesdemoiselles Vincens.

*Wednesday, 24th July 1743, or 12th Âdi of Rudrôt-kâri.*—A gift of four jewelled ornaments was received this morning at 8, from Taqî Sâhib, who is at Wandiwash.

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1743.  
Taqî Sahib forwards jewellery.

The merchants of the old Company, at 7 this evening, conveyed some presents, including fruit etc., to the Governor's house.

Merchants make presents.

*Thursday, 25th July 1743, or 13th Âdi of Rudrôt-kâri.*—Muttaiya Pillai sent to the residence of the Governor at 7 this evening, the following gifts: viz., a pair of golden neck chains, valued at 50 pagodas, two rolls of silk valued at 20 pagodas, sugar, sugar-candy, grapes, almonds, nutmegs, mace, cloves, fruit, rice, beans, sheep, fowls, and some other articles, at an aggregate cost of 30 pagodas; making in all 100 pagodas.

Muttaiya Pillai also sends gifts.

*Friday, 26th July 1743, or 14th Âdi of Rudrôt-kâri.*—The cloth bazaar merchants took some presents at noon, the total value of which was . . . \*

Others do the same.

Salatu Venkatâchala Chetti sent this evening, offerings, including fruit, worth Rs. . . . \*

*Saturday, 27th July 1743, or 15th Âdi of Rudrôt-kâri.*—The gifts from Guntûr Ravanappa Chetti, presented at noon, amounted in value to Rs. . . . ;\* and those which Badê Sâhib made this evening consisted of . . . \* Tarwâdi,† also took some presents to-day to the Governor.

\* Blank in the original.

† A Marwâri banker, agent of Kâsi Dâs Bukkanji.