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 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 Pondicherry. The way in which the matter became known to the authorities was this. One Manilla Malaiyappan, who lived in Pondicherry, and had no employment, used to visit Paramānandan. He observed what was going on, and communicated it to Iruappā, Muttu Cheṭṭi and Kudaikkāra Rangappān. They went, with four other Cheṭṭis, 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 Cheṭṭi men and one Cheṭṭi woman, were. These claimed relationship with the visitors, ran to them, fell at their feet,

* Blank in the original. There is no doubt from passages elsewhere that the missing name is Cornet.
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 kidnappers 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 Ariyankuppam, where they were confined in a house belonging to Paramānandana. 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 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 Cheṭṭi, and Bangappan. 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 Kanakarāya Mudali, who passed them on to Irusappa Muttu Cheṭṭi. The latter, fearing the consequences, refused to receive them. Thereupon, M. Soude came to see Kanakarāya Mudali, Sēshāchala Cheṭṭi, Irusappa Muttu Cheṭṭi, 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. Kanakarāya Mudali went in the morning to the Governor, and reported the whole matter. Some of the Company's peons were sent to bring Paramānandana. When they called out for him at his house, one Arulānandana, who was within, escaped by scaling the walls of the backyard, and hid himself in the Mission Church. Paramānandana, however, was arrested and taken to the fort prison. M. Soude was dismissed from his appointment; M. Cornet, his
superior officer, was sent for, and directed to take charge of accounts, etc., from him; and another European was appointed as his successor.

Friday, 6th July 1743, or 25th Âdi of Rudrovākāri.—This afternoon about 2, a ship arrived from France. The news brought by her is . . . *

Sunday, 21st July 1743, or 9th Âdi of Rudrovākāri.—At 7 this evening, Kanakarāya 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 . . . . *

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

Monday, 22nd July 1743, or 10th Âdi of Rudrovākāri.—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 . . . *

Tuesday, 23rd July 1743, or 11th Âdi of Rudrovākāri.—The Company’s merchant Sâshâchala Chetti despatched at 7 this evening his presents of fruit and other articles.

Wednesday, 24th July 1743, or 12th Âdi of Rudrovākāri.—A gift of four jewelled ornaments was received this morning at 8, from Taqī Šâhib, who is at Wandiwash.

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

Thursday, 25th July 1743, or 13th Âdi of Rudrovākāri.—Muttaïya 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.

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

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

Saturday, 27th July 1743, or 15th Âdi of Rudrovākāri.—The gifts from Guntâr Ravanappa Chetti, presented at noon, amounted in value to Rs. . . . ;* and those which Bâd Śâhib made this evening consisted of . . . * Tarwâdî,† also took some presents to-day to the Governor.