

CHAP.  
XXII.  
1746.

landed was unable to return to the ship. He intended to go on to Pondichery, and with that view walked for some distance, but was obliged to turn back owing to his feet having swollen. We have also brought letters from the officers of the ship."

*Wednesday, 3rd August 1746, or 22nd Âdi of Akshaya.*—At noon to-day, M. de la Bourdonnais and the Governor M. Dupleix, were entertained by M. de la Villebague, at his house. At about 3, they left in palanquins; that of M. de la Bourdonnais preceding that of M. Dupleix. As they passed out together through the sea-gate, the "Tambour-aux-champs" was beaten. They alighted at the custom-house, and there, as he was starting on an expedition against Commodore Peyton who commands the English fleet, M. de la Bourdonnais bade M. Dupleix farewell. A salute of twenty-one guns was then fired. The Governor accompanied M. de la Bourdonnais to the boat, embracing and kissing him before he embarked. When the boat with M. de la Bourdonnais on board pushed off from the shore, there was another salute of twenty-one guns. The Governor watched it until it had passed the outer surf, then returned to his house, and afterwards went out for a drive.

When M. Dupleix first disembarked, the "Tambour-aux-champs" was not beaten, and fifteen guns only were fired; but on the occasion of the landing of M. Dumas, he was honoured with a salute of twenty-one guns, and with the beating of the "Tambour-aux-

M. de la Villebague entertains M. de la Bourdonnais and Dupleix.

M. de la Bourdonnais bids Governor farewell, and embarks. What took place on the occasion.

Honours paid to M. M. Dupleix and Dumas on first landing.

champs." That a similar honour was not accorded to M. Dupleix, was made the ground of a complaint, which has a long history. Some said that to make up for the previous shortcoming, the Governor had on this occasion caused a salute of twenty-one guns to be fired twice, and the "Tambour-aux-champs" to be beaten, and that with this motive he accompanied M. de la Bourdonnais to the boat, and remained on the beach until it had passed the outer surf. A few observed that his intention in acting as he did was to indicate that the beating of the "Tambour-aux-champs" was due only to his own presence on the occasion. When M. de la Bourdonnais actually started to embark on board his ship, no guns were fired. Some surmised that this must have been at his own desire, as he was proceeding, as it were, to his own residence. Others, again, thought that M. de la Bourdonnais must have declined the honour, as one more befitting the occasion of his victorious return. Each expressed the opinion which occurred to him.

M. de la Bourdonnais stated in the presence of all his officers that he was resolved to lead the fleet against Commodore Peyton, who is cruising off Trincomalee, where the English are building ships; and either capture his squadron, making him and his officers prisoners, or sink and destroy his opponents, or with his officers, meet a like fate at the hands of the English. The views of the Governor and those present were in accord with those

CHAP.  
XXII.

1746.

Why M. Dupleix caused a particular salute to be given on the departure of M. de la Bourdonnais.

Opinions as to the absence of a salute when the latter started to embark.

Statement of M. de la Bourdonnais touching intentions as to English squadron.

CHAP.  
XXII.  
—  
1746.

French  
fleet ships  
warlike  
stores and  
provisions.

Estimated  
cost of  
fitting, etc.,  
the ships.

Amounts  
in specie  
carried by  
them.

Number of  
men on  
board.

Arrange-  
ments as to  
native  
pilots.

expressed by M. de la Bourdonnais. Every one is assured that either one or the other of these two things will happen: there is no other alternative.

Munitions of war, pickaxes, spears, ladders, spades, baskets, etc., etc. were shipped on board the eight sail comprising the fleet of M. de la Bourdonnais. Having enumerated these, there is no need that I should say more. A word to the wise is sufficient. Sheep, bullocks, pigs, fowls, dried fish, bread, Colombo arrack, rice, dholl, ghee, oil, firewood, and other provisions, were all embarked in the ships, in quantities so enormous as to appear almost fabulous. There is possibly a risk that the terms "ocean of lies," and "mountain of lies" might be applied to my description. It was estimated that the fitting out of the nine vessels which came out for the war would cost a lakh of rupees, less 4,000 or 5,000. The lowest estimate was not, it would appear, below 80,000 or 85,000 rupees. The cost of the expedition may amount to more, but it cannot be less. In addition to provisions, money was shipped in boxes. The Admiral's vessel, the *Achille*, had on board Rs. 4,000 in specie, and each of the other seven ships Rs. 3,000. The men carried by the fleet numbered 3,300. Two hundred and forty soldiers, fifty East Indians, and a few officers were embarked at Pondichery to replace those falling sick and dying. Two native masters were engaged to pilot the fleet to Trincomalee, on a salary of Rs. 23 per mensem each. They were taken before

the Governor, who sent them on to M. de la Bourdonnais, by whom they were put on board his own ship. They expressed fears for their safety on the ground that they were to be employed on a man-of-war, but the Governor and M. de la Bourdonnais reassured them by saying that in the event of an action, they would be ordered into the hold along with the priests and the ship's doctor, and they moreover promised to give them a liberal reward in addition to their pay. Each ship was provided with two divers, four boatmen, and a catamaran. The duty of these men was to make soundings whilst the fleet was doubling the promontory of Ceylon, explore the estuaries of rivers, and report to the ships shoals and other dangers. The services of experienced hands were obtained because they were intimately acquainted with these seas, of which the French sailors have but little knowledge. The French say that when M. de la Bourdonnais bade the Governor farewell, he told him that they would rejoice after the fifteenth day from this, when he would bring Commodore Peyton as his prisoner, and that he would not now stand on much ceremony, but would take his departure at once. As the tide of fortune has turned in favour of the French, they will, without doubt, vanquish the English. Providence surely has willed it so; and it will certainly come to pass. When the vessels return, all will be delighted.

*Thursday, 4th August 1746, or 23rd Ādi of Akshaya.*—This morning at 6, the son of Chandā Śāhib,

CHAP.  
XXII.  
—  
1746.

These  
apprehen-  
sive of  
serving on  
a ship of  
war.

Further  
special  
native  
staff.

What M.  
de la Bour-  
donnais,  
when  
departing,  
said to the  
Governor.

CHAP.  
XXII.

1746.  
The son of  
Chandâ  
Sâhib and  
others  
visit the  
admiral's  
ship.

Arrange-  
ments  
for their  
reception.

Attentions  
paid to  
them by  
M. de la  
Bourdon-  
nais.

They are  
shown  
round the  
ship, etc.

Presents  
made to  
M. de la  
Bourdon-  
nais.

Those  
given by  
him in  
return.

the son of Badê Sâhib, and Asad Sâhib, the son-in-law of Husain Sâhib, with many of attendants, went off in five boats—the first three in one furnished with seats, and the others in ordinary craft—to the ship *Achille*, which is that of the Admiral. As they stepped on board, the second captain came to meet and escort them. The deck was lined on either side by 250 soldiers, drums were beaten, pipes and trumpets were played, and the visitors were received with very great honours. M. de la Bourdonnais then advanced, embraced them, and conducted them to his quarters, where he led them into a cabin freshly decorated with gilt leaves and silk hangings, and seated them on chairs and sofas placed there. After they had exchanged some polite phrases, they talked for a while on general topics. They then witnessed some of the manœuvres of the seamen, such as the fastening and unfastening of ropes, and the unfurling of sails, which the men were directed to perform quickly. They were next shown round the deck, fore and aft, and afterwards inspected the cannon which were mounted there. They then once more entered the Admiral's cabin, and resumed their seats. The son of Chandâ Sâhib presented M. de la Bourdonnais with a dress of honour worth Rs. 110 or 120, and the son of Badê Sâhib gave him another. M. de la Bourdonnais in return made a present of a musket fitted with a bayonet, to the former, and of another musket to the latter

both these weapons being of a costly description. On their way back he escorted them as far as the gangway, and there bade them farewell. As they descended the ship's ladder, and entered the boat, a salvo of twenty-one guns was fired by each of the four ships in the roads. Then those on board taking off their hats, shouted thrice: "Long live the king." Thus were the visitors highly honoured: they were deserving of the treatment which they received. The beating of drums continued, and the guard of honour remained drawn up, as long as they were on board; the latter was dismissed only after they had quitted the ship. The visitors then came ashore, and repaired to their respective abodes.

The fleet of M. de la Bourdonnais, consisting of eight ships, set sail at 11 this forenoon to seek the English at Galle, Colombo, Jaffna, and Trincomalee. When it stood out to sea, fifteen guns were fired by the Admiral only. The fort returned the salute.

*Friday, 5th August 1746, or 24th Âdi of Akshaya.*—I suggested to the Governor that Asad Sâhib should be supplied with provisions. He desired me to tell Arumpâtai to send them, which did.

*Saturday, 6th August 1746, or 25th Âdi of Akshaya.*—This forenoon, about half-past 11, M. Duplex, sent for me, furnished me with a list of goods to be manufactured for him, and desired that they should be supplied by the end of October next. I said: "Very good." He again summoned me, and

CHAP.  
XXII.

1746.  
Honours  
paid them  
on their  
departure.

The French  
fleet sails  
in search  
of the  
English.

Governor  
grants  
diarist  
permission  
to supply  
provisions  
to Asad  
Sâhib.

Governor  
sends for  
diarist.  
And gives  
him order  
for certain  
goods.