

502840

( v )

## INTRODUCTION TO VOLUME II.

267/3  
0158

VOLUME II covers a period commencing with the 23rd April 1746, and ending with the 18th October of the same year—something under six months—and yet the record of this brief space of time forms a volume as large as that of the preceding nine years and seven months, and contains but little in the way of petty details.

The central point of interest in the portion of the Diary now placed before the reader is the capture of Madras by the French. Close around this lies the record of what occurred in connection with that event, immediately before and after it took place, and of the quarrels and jealousies which the appearance of de la Bourdonnais on the scene caused between him and Dupleix. I venture to think that the vivid descriptions of these latter which this contains, and the apparently truthful accounts which Ranga Pillai gives of his conversations with Dupleix regarding de la Bourdonnais, will prove of interest; and may, perhaps, in a measure assist in clearing points upon which history seems uncertain. Apart from the seizure of Madras, of which, as the diarist was not a spectator of it and had no one on the spot to furnish him with particulars, he has given but a brief account, much that is interesting, and in some cases amusing, is recorded by him.

It is evident that, although he had not yet been appointed chief dubash at the date on which the present volume closes, he had then become a power in Pondichery, and had gained the confidence of its Governor to an extraordinary degree. That this latter was the case, is evidenced not only by the way in which Dupleix sent for and consulted him on all manner of subjects, including his private affairs, but also by the unreserved tone in which he conversed with him regarding de la Bourdonnais, and the freedom of speech in which he indulged when doing so.

Ranga Pillai writes, at some length, in an entertaining and instructive manner, and with shrewd comments thereupon, of the many intrigues which took place with regard to the appointment of chief dubash, the prominent part which Madame Dupleix assumed in these, and the unblushing way in which she bargained for bribes to herself and her husband.

In addition to matter of this nature, there will be found in this volume much that is illustrative of the men and manners, both European and Native, of the India of the period to which it relates.

I trust that it will be acknowledged by those who read it, and have perused its predecessor, that the promise which I held out in the general introduction at the beginning of the latter has, to some degree at any rate, been redeemed.

J. F. P.

OOTACAMUND,  
November 23rd, 1906.

## TABLE OF CONTENTS.

### CHAPTER XVI.

FROM APRIL 23RD, 1746, TO MAY 17TH, 1746.

	PAGE
Death of son of Nāchanua Pillai—Traders imprisoned for debt released—Tāṇḍavarāyan and hāman freed at intercession of diarist—Māngaitāyi and Nannāchi proceed on a visit of condolence—Diarist sees official accountants going to Governor—On return, inform him of issue of certain special orders—Subsequent conversation—Governor sends for Tānappa Mudali—Inquires as to alleged malpractices of officials—Issues certain orders—M. de Bausset arrives—Governor reads to him petition complaining of misconduct on his part, and that of his subordinates—He asseverates his honesty—Governor expresses his opinion of Muruga Pillai—M. de Bausset concurs—Conversation regarding a request in petition—M. de Bausset resigns—Governor investigates the complaint made—Accused defend themselves—Further inquiry directed—Strict order as to measurement of paddy issued—M. de Bausset informed of this—He assigns a false reason for it—Comments of diarist on his character—Governor receives information of misappropriation of Company's goods—The case investigated—Three persons accused and incarcerated—Information laid against Arunāchala Chetti—Governor orders production of two others—One hides, the other escapes—Former gives himself up—Makes a statement, and is released—The other not found—Diarist indisposed and unable to visit Governor—Venkatēsa Aiyān imprisoned—Remarks regarding this—Tānappa Mudali pays to Governor one-third of estate of his late brother—Expresses gratitude for favour shown—Governor advises him to adopt a son—Conversation on this subject—Instructions of Governor regarding a certain bond—Venkatēsa Aiyān released—Rāmaiyan placed before Governor—Confesses to peculation of Company's goods—Denies a further charge, and makes a statement—Sīnappaiyan imprisoned—Merchants instructed not to supply goods, excepting on indents—Fort Subbaiyan begs protection of diarist—Conversation between them—Allegation that defalcations were reported to M. Cornet, who attempted a compromise—M. Cornet said to have been severely reprimanded by the Governor—Madame Dupleix inquires of cloth merchants why their bazaars are closed—They explain—Gives them certain instructions—Governor remonstrates with M. de Bausset on resigning appointment—He persists—M. de la Selle appointed in his stead—Governor inquires of diarist whether people of Madras are removing their property—	