

CHAP.  
XXXV.  
1746.

He is finally  
told to  
use his own  
judgment.

His draft  
highly  
proved.

Mr. Morse,  
his family,  
and others  
arrive.

M. Barthe-  
lemy and  
others  
accompany  
them.

The recep-  
tion accord-  
ed to them.

occasion to ask for express instructions, as your custom has been to hold a conversation with me on the subject of a letter, before requiring me to write it, and, from that, I gathered your views on the matter, and framed my communications accordingly." "Well, well," said the Governor, "write now without having obtained any such clue to my ideas. Use your own judgment in drafting the letter. This will be a test of your ability." I did so, and read it out to him. He approved highly of it, and ordered me to despatch it, which I did by two peons.

At 5 this evening, Mr. Morse, the Governor of Madras, with his wife and children, Mr. Monson, Deputy Governor of Madras, and five or six more Englishmen, arrived, accompanied by MM. Barthélemy, de Bury, de la Villebague, and Delarche; a few other Europeans, 200 soldiers, and 100 sepoys. One hundred soldiers, fifty Mahé sepoys, and a few officers, went out from Pondichery, as far as Kâlâpêttai, to meet them. The party, having dined there at noon, set out in the evening. M. Dupleix and the Councillors joined it, at Mînâkshi Ammâl's choultry, and returned with it. As they passed through the Madras gate of the town, a salute of twenty-one guns was fired; and a similar one was accorded when the whole party entered the Governor's house. A third salute was fired when they sat down to drink wine. The conversation at table continued for two Indian hours, and at the end of that time the Governor's wife

took the guests away, to show them the building assigned for their accommodation. This was the Council-house, situated to the west of the Governor's mansion, and it had already been furnished, with bedsteads and other requisites, for the use of its occupants. Having seen their apartments, the guests returned to the Governor's house, where supper was served, and when this was over, they went to the Council-house for the night.

Now, all the attention paid to the ex-Governor of Madras, and his party, was uncalled for. If Mr. Morse had visited Pondichery during the time that he still held the Governorship of Madras, so much respect would not have been shown to him, but, on the contrary, much less. Because M. Dupleix received Mr. Morse with great honour, the whole town praised his magnanimity. The number of those composing the crowd which gathered along the road from the boundary hedge to the Governor's house, to see Mr. Morse pass, was beyond all calculation. The people were so densely packed that room could not have been found sufficient to let fall even a grain of gingelly-seed amidst them. It may be imagined, then, how much Mr. Morse must have felt his position, when the eyes of all the people in the town were thus concentrated upon him. To picture the grief which he must have experienced, and the measure of it, is not in my power. Joy and sorrow are twin-born in this world. A reverse of fortune is, in the eyes of the wise, no disgrace.

CHAP.  
XXXV.

1746.  
Council  
house  
assigned  
for their  
accommo-  
dation

They sup  
with the  
Governor.

Views of  
diarist  
as to the  
attention  
paid to  
Mr. Morse.

Alludes to  
the crowd  
which  
assembled  
to see him.

And  
dwells  
upon the  
grief that  
this must  
have  
caused  
him.

Reflections  
of diarist  
on this  
subject.

CHAP.  
XXXV.  
1746.

The downfall of Fort St. George, and the sufferings inflicted on its defenders, are only the inscrutable dispensations of Providence. But evil should not befall even our enemies.

Search ordered for property set down by the followers of Mr. Morse.

At 8 at night, the Governor summoned me, and said: "Many goods, and property of various kinds, have been set down all along the road between your choultry and Muttiyâlpêtai, by the people who accompanied Mr. Morse's party. Order the poligar's\* men to institute a search in the houses in that direction, in case any goods should be secreted within them; and let everything that is found be brought to the town-gate." In consequence of this, innumerable cotton cloths were taken there, and the Governor directed M. Le Bon to inspect them, and order their removal.

Many cloths found.

Complaint made that soldiers and sepoys will not give up certain property.

The orders passed by the Governor.

*Friday, 25th November 1746, or 13th Kârttigai of Akshaya.*—The poligar's men complained to the Governor that some of the French soldiers and Mahé sepoys refused to deliver up their goods and baggage, and even assumed a threatening attitude, when asked for them. Thereupon, the Governor ordered M. Duquesne, with twenty soldiers, to accompany the poligar's peons, and to have all the baggage, whether it belonged to the French soldiers, or to the sepoys, or was the property of the English, or of their Governor, conveyed to the Madras gate. When the refractory soldiers heard

\* The chief of the peons.

that the goods found were being inspected at the Muttiyâlpêtai gate, they brought out those which they had secreted in the native houses in that quarter, and took them to the gate. M. Le Bon was deputed to inspect the articles that had been brought to, and deposited at the town-gate, both to-day, and yesterday. He made an inventory of them all, and allowed them to be carried into the town.

When Madras was captured, the merchants of that town, as well as many inhabitants, including Muḥammadans and Guzerâtis living therein, fearing that if they asked for the protection of the police, their property would be stolen by them, deposited it for safety at Mylapore, which was in Muḥammadan territory, and where they had long-standing business relations, and they continued in hiding in the surrounding villages, including Nungambâkkam, Saidapet, Kôdambâkkam, and Poonamallee. When Maḥfuz Khân, the son of Nawâb Anwar-ud-dîn Khân, arrived at Mylapore, some of the merchants shook off their fears, and were confident that, with his army, he would wrest Madras from the French, and restore it to the English. In this hope, some allowed their goods to remain at Mylapore, but a few, who were doubtful as to the course of events, caused their goods and families to be removed, for safety, to the Chingleput pâlaiyam, the fort at Poonamallee, and other places, and they, themselves, remained in Mylapore. After defeating Maḥfuz Khân, and putting him and his army to flight,

CHAP.  
XXXV.

1746.  
The articles produced.

Property of merchants, etc., secured at Mylapore when Madras was taken.

What they did on the arrival there of Maḥfuz Khan.

CHAP.  
XXXV.1746.  
Mylapore  
completely  
sacked  
after the  
battle.Plunder  
thus  
acquired  
brought  
by the fol-  
lowers and  
guards of  
Mr. Morse.M. Le Bon  
detailed  
to levy duty  
on this.His dis-  
honest  
conduct.

M. Paradis gave the Muhammadan camp, and Mylapore, over to plunder. The French soldiers, sepoy, and camp followers, then set to work in a methodical manner, and completely gutted the town. On Saturday, the 23rd instant [5th November], Mylapore was again sacked by the French troops, on their own account. The Pariahs, Pallis, Muhammadans, and other people of Mylapore, as well as the populace of the surrounding country, joined in pillaging. Thus, between them, the spoil was extensive. That of Madras when it was seized by the French, was nothing compared with it. Many of the Madras merchants were ruined by the sack of Mylapore. What the people of Pondichery acquired by the pillage of that town was conveyed by porters, carriers, and peons, in the train of Mr. Morse, and by his guard of 200 soldiers and 100 Mahé sepoy. Even Muttaiya Pillai, Arumpâtai Pillai, and others, who went to Madras from Pondichery, took this opportunity of sending away their share of plunder.

As directed by the Governor, M. Le Bon took post at the town-gate, to assess the goods and other articles thus brought away, and to levy duties thereon, previous to their being taken into the town. He valued property worth 100 pagodas, at only 10 pagodas, or even less; but never more. He even permitted the removal of goods, without assessing them at all. It would take up much time to relate all the irregularities practised on

CHAP.  
XXXV.

1746.

Gross  
thefts  
committed  
by the  
soldiers on  
duty.Estimated  
value of  
the spoil of  
Mylapore.Amount  
which  
Muttaiya  
Pillai,  
alone,  
obtained.Remarks as  
to others.

this occasion. The goods brought by the soldiers and sepoy were passed duty free, and they were not even examined. Whilst this sort of thing was going on, a few soldiers were busily engaged in laying hands on whatever they could, before the very eyes of M. Le Bon himself; and he kept his tongue between his teeth. Two or three Frenchmen who were with him followed his example. The quantity of property which stuck to the fingers of the twenty French soldiers who were ordered to pass goods through the Muttaiyâlpêttaï gate, was beyond all bounds. The work of pillage was carried out in many different ways.

It was estimated that the spoil of Mylapore amounted in value to ten lakhs of pagodas. If this figure is too high, it may safely be put down at half that amount. Muttaiya Pillai,\* alone, obtained by plunder 10,000 rupees. Such was the estimate of the merchants. Indeed, those who saw his goods when they passed through the hands of M. Le Bon valued them at much more. It must be borne in mind that this was the value set upon what Muttaiya Pillai sent to Pondichery. Who knows what he obtained in ready money, or the amount of goods he laid by in Madras? If this man, who went to Madras but yesterday, has acquired so much wealth, what considering the extent to which that place had been abandoned, must have been the riches that fell into the hands

\* Chief of the peons (Police).

CHAP.  
XXXV.

1746.  
Diarist's  
opinion  
as to the  
fate of  
wealth so  
acquired.

of those who accompanied the French, on the original expedition, and who continue to dwell in Madras to this day. Such ill-gotten wealth, however, will never prosper in the hands of its possessor. Even that which he previously had will be taken away from him. So it has been; and so it will be. I cannot form an idea as to how many men have been ruined, and driven to cry aloud in their distress. The whole of the property thus infamously acquired will, assuredly, melt away.

*Thursday, 1st December 1746, or 19th Kārttigai of Akshaya.*—This morning, the reply of Muhammad 'Alī Khān, son of Nawāb Anwar-ud-dīn Khān, to the letter addressed to him about a week ago, was brought by our Company's peons and some of his messengers. I read it, and communicated the contents to the Governor. Muhammad 'Alī Khān, after expressing a desire to preserve alliance with the French, wrote as follows: "At the time that you were about to advance on Madras, it was imperative on you to obtain the permission of the Nawāb Sāhib, and to accompany the troops sent by him to assist you. But as you failed to do so, you should have captured Madras from the sea. Since, however, it was attacked by you, both by land and sea, it has become incumbent on us to ask you to justify your proceedings. Mahfuz Khān went to Madras, in order to effect a reconciliation between you and the English, but your soldiers attacked him. As I had been directed by the Nizām to advance against the Mahrattas, with a strong

Reply of  
Muhammad  
'Alī Khān  
to the  
Governor's  
letter.

Says that  
permission  
to attack  
Madras  
should have  
been  
obtained  
from the  
Nawab.

Details the  
results of  
failure to  
do this.

force, I marched to the scene of action, in command of a large army fully equipped with cannon, muskets, and other arms. Peace being restored, I returned to Arcot, and am now making a tour in these provinces. As you have always manifested friendship for, confidence in, and respect towards, the Nawāb, ever since he became the ruler of Arcot, and as he, in return, has always endeavoured to promote friendship and alliance with you, he would readily and cheerfully have aided you with as many contingents of cavalry and infantry as you required, if you had asked for his help. But you never did this. You have even plundered Mylapore. You have caused disturbances at Vizhuppuram. But; let by-gones be by-gones. If you really desire to preserve the good will of His Highness, and alliance with him, specify to me, in writing, the acts by which you are prepared to show your loyalty; and I will intercede for you with him, and effect a reconciliation."

When I interpreted this spiritless and undignified epistle to the Governor, he smiled with disdain, and exclaimed: "See how actively he is preparing for war!" I answered: "Did I not tell you, before this, that your fortune is in the ascendant? Either Anwar-ud-dīn Khān, or Nizām-ul-Mulk, will die. Their territories will be taken possession of by Murtaẓā 'Alī Khān, or Taqī Sāhib. If neither Anwar-ud-dīn Khān, nor Nizām-ul-Mulk should fall, they will at least be involved in a war, and will be worsted. Fear will then induce them to come

CHAP.  
XXXV.

1746.

And  
specifies  
his condi-  
tions of  
intercession  
on the  
Governor's  
behalf.

Remark of  
Governor  
on hearing  
the letter,  
and reply  
by diarist.