

CHAP.
XL.

1747.

Bearer of
the letters
imprisoned.Messengers
bring
letter and
presents
from Nasir
Jang.And halt at
diarist's
garden
house.He reports
this to the
Governor.Who
directs that
they be
well cared
for.The pro-
cession
to receive
the letter
and
presents.The
Governor
sets out in
state.

to him, and ordered that the man who had brought it should be committed to custody. The Brâhman messenger was, at once, conducted by us to prison.

Wednesday, 8th February 1747, or 30th Tai of Akshaya.—The following occurred here, this morning. The messengers who came from His Highness Nâsir Jang, the evening before last, bringing with them a letter and presents from him, halted at my garden house, outside the town-gate, and sent me word of their arrival. I communicated this to the Governor, who was pleased, and asked me where they were lodged. I informed him. He directed that they should be supplied with everything necessary, and well cared for at the place where they had halted.

I will now relate, as far as I am able, all the particulars of the splendid procession which set out from Pondichery to receive, with all due ceremony, the dress of honour and letter, and to escort them to the town. At 9 this morning, 100 Mahé sepoy, the same number of Carnatic sepoy, and fifty spearmen taken from the Poligar's peons, were marshalled before the Governor's residence. Drums were carried on horses. Dancing girls, and their attendant musicians, stood in a line. The Governor now set out, and the following was the order of the array. A chariot, drawn by six horses, led the procession, and in rear of it were men mounted on war horses. The Governor's palanquin, preceded by a file of musketeers, came

next. On either side waved white banners, fans of peacock's feathers, and chowries. A white umbrella was carried immediately behind the palanquin, which was preceded by fluteplayers playing on their instruments, trumpeters blowing on theirs, and drummers beating their drums. On either flank, rode an escort of sixteen European horsemen. Surrounded by this state the Governor moved forward. Behind him came, mounted on horseback, or seated in carriages, the Deputy Governor, M. Dulaurens, M. . . . * my [nephew] Appâvu, Sêshâchala Chetçi, Madanânda Pandit, the chief of the peons, and Krishna Rao. At 6 in the morning, orders had been issued that a tent should be pitched on the esplanade, outside the Vazhudâvûr gate, but within the moat, and that two companies of soldiers should be drawn up there. Accordingly, the tent was made ready, and the soldiers were paraded. The procession, which started at 9 in the morning, and included the Governor, the other administrators, and the Hindu gentry, proceeded on its way, and reached the tent prepared outside the town-gate. The Governor remained there, but the rest of the party, including the Deputy Governor, the Councilors, the Hindu gentry, the palanquin-bearers, and the horse-soldiers, moved forward to my garden-house, where Nâsir Jang's messengers were staying.

CHAP.
XL.

1747.

And is
followed
the Deputy
Governor,
and others.He alights
at a tent
outside the
town.The rest of
the party
goes to
bring the
messen-
gers.

* Blank in the original.

CHAP.
XL.
1747.

I, too, accompanied the deputation. We took charge of the letter and gifts, and brought them to the Governor, who was in the tent. As soon as he beheld the messengers, he rose from his seat, walked ten steps forward, and received the presents. As he did this, a salute of fifteen guns was fired from the ramparts. The dress of honour was then placed in the Governor's palanquin, and he entered the carriage drawn by six horses. The remainder of the party took their places in the vehicles in which they had come; and so the procession started again with, perhaps, greater pomp than before. Leaving the Vazhudâvûr-gate, it passed along the bazaar-road, turned southwards, in front of my store-house, marched through the street where Muttaiya Pillai's house stands, then turned due east, leaving the Deputy Governor's house behind it, entered the eastern road to the Governor's mansion, and finally drew up at the northern gate of his residence, where it halted. As the Governor entered his house, a salute of twenty-one guns was fired. The two messengers from Nâsir Jang, who came with the procession, were next invited to sit down. A brief conversation ensued, and they were presented with betel and nut, and sprinkled with rose water. Farewells were then exchanged, and the men returned to the lodgings provided for them.

Salute fired when the Governor receives the presents.

He then enters a carriage and the procession returns.

The route followed when doing this.

Messengers formally received at the Governor's house.

After this, M. Dulaurens came, at 11, to the areca-nut store-house, where I was, and, standing in the

street, called me. I went out, and saluted him. He requested me to approach, and asked if it was true that the presents from Nâsir Jang had arrived. I replied that it was. "Is it the custom of the Muhammadans?" he said; and then continued: "You must come to my house, and tell me, then and there, whatever happens." Knowing what an utter babbler he was, and how soon he would reveal to another whatever was said to him in confidence, I thought that if this reached the ears of the Governor it would displease him. Even if I should withhold from him every thing confidential, and communicate to him only commonplace and ordinary matters, he would not hold his tongue, and the wisest thing—so I thought—was not to tell him anything. I kept my own counsel, and saying that I would do as requested, left him. He then went home.

The reason for Nâsir Jang sending the presents mentioned above was as follows. As Imâm Sâhib, is with the Nizâm, he has been instrumental in obtaining Nâsir Jang's letter. He forwarded it to Avây Sâhib, his agent at Arcot. From there, Avây Sâhib came, followed by Nâsir Jang's messengers, with the letter and gifts. The contents of the letter were . . . *

The procession which started to receive, with due honour, the presents which came on this occasion,

* Blank in the original.

CHAP.
XL.

1747.

M. Dulaurens asks diarist to acquaint him with all that is going on.

Diarist, knowing him to be a babbler, considers what to do.

And decides to tell him nothing.

Why Nâsir Jang sent presents.

CHAP.
XL.
—
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Remarks
on the
procession.

Jayarâm
Pandit
brings
letters,
from
Raghôji
Bhonsla.

He
delivers
one to the
Governor
with an
offering.

Contents of
a letter
from
Husain
Sâhib, to
M. Tavak-
kal.

was, as regards style and splendour, equal to the previous one, excepting that in the present instance more white umbrellas, chowries, and fans of peacocks' feathers, were displayed, and the music consisted of more hautboys, flutes, and drums.

To-day, a letter arrived for the Governor, and another for me; both from Raghôji Bhonsla. Jayarâm Pandit, who came to collect money, and was residing in Chandâ Sâhib's house, brought them to me. Having read the letter addressed to myself, I went to the Governor's house, taking with me Jayarâm Pandit, whom I presented to the Governor. He laid before him an offering of five pagodas, and delivered to him the letter which he had brought. The Governor took and handed it to me. It ran as follows:

* This evening, Muḥammad Tavakkal received a letter from Husain Sâhib, and another from Husain Sâhib's son. In the former of these, it was written: "You say that the Governor of Pondichery declines to fix the sum of money that he should pay me, and desires me to do so. Well; the French have pillaged Madras and Mylapore, and it appears but just that they should give me half their plunder. If not, I will be content with ten, eight, seven, or even five, lakhs. Sound the Governor, and stipulate for the payment of such sum as he may be willing to give. When you state what amount he is prepared to pay, I will write to Mahfuz Khân and Muhammad

* Blank in the original.

'Alî Khân, ordering them to return, with their troops. You must forward your reply as soon as you can. Ask the French, also, for the restoration of the articles taken from Dastgîr Sâhib, our priest. I have obtained an order from the Nawâb, directing Mahfuz Khân to prevent his horsemen from attacking Azhisapâkkam, and have forwarded it to his camp."

Five ships which lay in the roads were despatched to-day, on an expedition. Two of them, when at Madras, encountered a storm, and had been dismantled. They were brought to Pondichery, and refitted. The third was the *St. Louis*. The remaining two were under the command of M. Dordelin, and had arrived from Acheen. All five were fitted out as men-of-war, and were supplied with the necessary munitions and stores. Their mission was to engage and take the English ships, which were said to be cruising on the Malabar coast, off Anjengo and Tellicherry; the capture of these places, also, forming one of the objects of the expedition. The captains of the ships were directed to take on board 6,000 Angrias, * who had offered

* This name was applied to the followers of a noted piratical chief-tain—one Toolajee Angria—who, following, at the time that Ranga Pillai wrote, in the footsteps of both his father and step-brother, had long been a constant source of trouble and danger to the sea trade of the Malabar coast, and of frequent annoyance to the servants of the East India Company. His misdeeds, and those of his people, were finally put an end to, in February 1756, when his last stronghold, Gheria, was captured, and his fleet destroyed, by a combined sea and land force under the command of Admiral Watson and Colonel Clive, and he, being made a prisoner, was handed over to the Mahrattas, who took good care that he should do no further harm.

CHAP.
XL.
—
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Five ships
which lay
in the roads
sail.

These all
equipped
as men-of-
war.

Objects of
the
expedition.

6,000
Angrias
to be
embarked.