INTRODUCTION TO VOLUME III.

Volume III opens with the 19th October 1746, and closes with the 14th March 1747.

It contains very interesting details regarding the agreement for the ransom of Madras, the chief signatories to which were de la Bourdonnais and the English Governor, Morse, and of the subsequent repudiation of the treaty by the authorities at Pondichery. A paragraph, pathetic in its brevity and substance, which occurs in the second chapter of the book, records the adieu to India of de la Bourdonnais, who, but for the childish quarrel between him and Dupleix, would undoubtedly have captured Fort St. David, as he did Madras, and have thus dealt a deadly blow to the position of the English in Hindustán.

The chief feature of the volume, however, is the graphic account given in it of the gallant and effective stroke dealt, with a disproportionately weak following, and without artillery, by Paradis—of whose alleged previous history an amusing account will be found in Chapter XLV—to the strong force well supplied with cannon, which Mahfuz Khán, the eldest son of the Nawáb of the Carnatic, sought to interpose between him and Fort St. George, to the relief of which, from an attempt at capture by the Muhammadans, he was advancing from Pondichery. This engagement will
always be conspicuous in Indian history, not only for
the promptitude and boldness with which the attack
was delivered, but also as being the first occasion,
as pointed out by Malleson, in his The Decisive
Battles of India, on which the European trader
assumed the position of a combatant, and as such,
administered to an Indian chieftain, of the class
whose every word had hitherto been to him a law,
a decided defeat. The tale of the battle of Mylapore,
as told in the Diary, forms attractive matter
for any one acquainted with the scene of it and
Southern India. Other points of interest mentioned,
are the intrigues and negotiations which had for their
object, on the one hand, obtaining from the French
possession of Fort St. George, and, on the other,
retaining it, and procuring the retirement of the
troops of the two sons of the Nawâb of the Carnatic,
which constituted not only a threat to Fort St.
George, but also a danger to Pondichery; the attack
made on Paradis when returning from the relief of
Madras; and the utter failure of the first expedition
sent from Pondichery, to attempt the seizure of
Fort St. David.

The volume concludes with a description of how
a second expedition, having the same object, and
practically commanded by Paradis, though nominally
under the direction of the incompetent de la Tour,
who had been the leader of its abortive predecessor,
was—when it had carried all before it, when every
work had been captured, and when the storming

party had actually paraded for the purpose of as-
saulting Fort St. David, itself—compelled, by the
appearance of a British fleet, to retire, spike the
guns previously taken, and destroy much ammunition
and stores; and was pursued, for a time, by troops
which sallied from the fort. The story of these
events is told in a very picturesque manner, the most
striking figure in it being, to my mind, the French
sentinel, who, standing on the flat roof of the
recently captured garden house, and gazing seaward
across the ever rolling surf of the Coromandel
Coast, suddenly descrys in the distance the hostile
fleet and announces to those who are awaiting
below the order to advance, the news which leads to
their hasty and not very orderly retreat.

Exmouth, Devon,
January 1914.

J.F.P.