south of the roads. What further happens I will note afterwards.

Within these twenty-five days, since the English squadron arrived, a Bengal ship, wearing the Dutch flag, has been seized. Her cargo was landed at Fort St. David and five Frenchmen on board have been imprisoned in the Fort. One is brother to Monsieur Delarche, and the latter has written to Muhammad Ali asking him to write to the Governor of Fort St. David about his brother. I forgot to mention this before.

This evening Monsieur de la Touche arrived from Madras.

Now the new year has begun, I believe my future to be bright and my troubles over. May God protect me this year, and help me to make large profits, pay off my debts and recover what is owed me, as the Vaippur astrologer predicts.

Tuesday, April 11. Nothing important has happened to-day. On behalf of Monsieur de Bury's

1 The effects of this blockade, which prevented grain vessels from reaching Pondicherry, were severely felt, while plenty reigned at Cuddalore. Cons. Sup. à la Compagnie. No. 30, 1747 (P.B.—No. 7). This was accentuated by the failure of the N.E. monsoon in 1746. The Pondicherry grain duties were taken off early in 1747.

2 The ship was called the Rotterdam. But it appears that the Dutch flag was a mere device to elude the English squadron. Duplex appealed to the Dutch Council at Nagapatam, but they answered that they knew nothing of the ship. Griffin offered to exchange his prisoners, and when Duplex refused, sent them off to Europe. Cons. Sup. à la Compagnie. October 11, 1747 (P.B.—No. 7).

3 A village in Tanjore.

4 K dick. Prabhava.
business through me. So she has been hating me more than words can tell.

Now a month or so ago Tambi Chetti of Madras sent her a letter. It came late, about eight o'clock, and, thinking they would be at supper, I put the letter into my table-drawer, meaning to give it her next day, and went home. But I was very busy over the peace with the Nawâb, and I forgot all about it. Nârâyana Pillai came and asked me if I still had Madame's letter that had come the day before. I explained that I had been busy and forgotten it, and had forgotten even to read a letter of my own; and then gave him the letter. Madame Dupleix was furious. She explained that she could get me hung for this, and would, were it not for my wife and children. She even called me shameful names before the dubâsh Appu, Variâm, Nârâyana Pillai and a head-peon; and, as I was not there, she told them to repeat to me what she had said. They softened her words down a little. But I explained to them why I had not sent the letter, and, said I, 'Let me be punished if I kept it on purpose. Does she think I kept the letter to read? I knew what was in it beforehand. Did it accuse me of murder or theft that I should hide it? What reason could I have had to keep it back?' And so I sent them off. But now, she opens my letter from Kandâppan, makes Appu read it, seals it up again, and sends it to me. As soon as I saw it I thought something was wrong with it, and sent for

the head-peon. He told me what she had done, and another person told me so too. I know not how God can permit such things. None should act so. Later, Appu came. 'A letter came,' he said, 'from Kandâppan of Kârikâl; Madame wondered which Kandâppan it was, and I told her he was your gumasta, so she was satisfied.' — 'The pair of you,' I retorted, 'could only satisfy your curiosity by reading the letter.' He changed countenance at that, and stammered out, 'We are not the only people who make mistakes; great folks can always avoid consequences, though poor ones can't.' — 'She wanted to hang me,' I said, 'for only keeping her letter a day; but what should be said about her opening and reading mine?' So he departed.

Friday, April 14. — The Honourable Governor has given me written instructions about where the peons are to be posted. In the day time all are to be stationed at the Valûdâvr Gate. But at sunset fifty are to go by the Villîyanallûr Gate and along the beach as far as Alisapûkkam, returning in the morning. A hundred are posted at the Custom House to be on the watch for any alarm. Another fifty are to patrol from the Villîyanallûr Gate along

3 In allusion to Ranga Pillai's not being punished for keeping Madame's letter.
4 5th Chittirai, Prabha.
5 The old custom house was demolished when the defences were completed on the sea side. At this time a palm-leaf shed was being used as a custom-house, just outside the Sea Gate. Reply of the Chief, Sup. dated January 10, 1740, to the Comptroller's letters of 1736 and 1745. (P.B.—No. 7).