Tuesday, February 10.—As 19 bales of my coarse blue-cloth and the Yánám cloth were to be sorted and packed, I stayed at the Fort till twelve o'clock. I and the Second then went to the Governor and informed him that 36 bales had been made up.

He then said, 'Mir A'azam Sáhib, who has come from Nawáb Chandá Sáhib's camp, says that he has secret news to deliver, as the letter has already stated. As it is now noon, I must dine; but wait till I have finished, and then I will hear the news. You can go and eat afterwards.' I went to him at half-past seven [sic] when he had finished; and I now write what Mir A'azam said and what the Governor replied.

Mir A'azam said that he had been told by Chandá Sáhib to report to the Governor as follows:—‘Formerly I did not seize the fort of Tanjore in consideration of Sáhu Rájá, but made an agreement that the affair should be settled for 70 lakhs, that territory should be mortgaged for 40 lakhs and that 30 lakhs should be paid in ready money, of which 15 lakhs should be paid down at once and the remainder after the army had reached a certain place. Up to now articles of gold and silver and jewels set with precious stones, worth about 7 lakhs of rupees, have been delivered and the balance has still to be paid. But as Sáhu Rájá is now dead, I have raised batteries in order to capture the Fort.' Please write to M. Goupil, the Commander of your army, and to Muzaффár Khán and Shaikh Hasan, jamdars of the sepoys, that their people must not plunder the fort when it is captured.' The Governor replied, 'I will write as you desire; but the Marathas are strong, and may think that Chandá Sáhib has broken his agreement in seizing the fort of Tanjore after Sáhu Rájá’s death, as though he had inherited his power. The great men and wazirs, Sau Bháji Ráo, Raghóji Bhónsla, Fátteh Singh, Sripáti Ráo, etc., may grow angry, supposing that he considers the Maratha kingdom ended by Sáhu Rájá’s death, and so, forgetting their former friendship for him, may make friends with Násir Jang to attack him. Considering the present state of affairs, he needs their friendship. So before taking the fort, he must consider the future and avoid the evils that may happen. But if it be thought that these dangers are unreal, and that the fort should be captured, he has my good wishes. I am also for seizing the fort. I will write to M. Goupil, the Commander of the French troops, and to Muzaффár Khán and Shaikh Hasan, the jamdars of the sepoys, not to plunder the fort but make an agreement to receive so many lakhs of rupees as a present for its capture, on which condition they

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1 Report credited Chandá Sáhib with the design of establishing his son as Nawáb of Tanjore. Le Riche to Duplex, February 10, 1750 (P.R., No. 84, f. 291).
should plunder nothing but obey Chandā Sāhib's orders. If they take the fort by storm, they will surely plunder and set all agreements at defiance. The Europeans might perhaps refrain, but Muzaffar Khān's sepoys, though they were promised a lakh of rupees each, could not be kept from plunder. But, if, as happened at Madras, the enemy come to terms before the walls are scaled, and surrender the fort, and if Chandā Sāhib and his people alone enter, leaving the others outside, then there may be no plunder. Otherwise it is sure to be pillaged.' This is what was said about Tanjore.

Mīr A'azam then continued, 'Murtazā 'Alī Khān of Vellore is a firebrand in these parts, in spite of his being Chandā Sāhib's brother-in-law. He killed Safdar 'Alī Khān, thus breaking up the Nāvāts; and in spite of all the kindness shown him after Chandā Sāhib's coming, he is still the same mischief-maker as before. It is intended to send Raza Sāhib with an army against him; and so Chandā Sāhib desires you to send mortars, cannon, etc., to capture the fort.' The Governor replied, 'Murtazā 'Alī Khān is indeed an evil man, and his fort should be captured. It will not take long to get possession of Vellore. It will surrender as soon as it is besieged. But for the moment, it is enough to settle the Tanjore and Trichinopoly affairs. It is not wise to send a few troops here and a few there. But if he indeed desires its capture, he has my good wishes.' Mortars, cannon, etc., are ready; only bullocks and carts are needed for their transport.'

Thirdly Mīr A'azam said, 'As Muzaffar Jang and Chandā Sāhib will march to attack Nāsīr Jang, they wish to send their families into Pondicherry. I am ordered to ask you to provide a house for Muzaffar Jang's wife; as there is still the house in which Chandā Sāhib's family formerly lived, no other house need be provided for them.' The Governor replied, 'I will certainly do this. A house is ready for Muzaffar Jang's family, so write that they are welcome to come whenever they please.'

Fourthly Mīr A'azam said, 'I have been asked to tell you that the Pādshāh's vakil has written that his parwāna will be sent to you in a short time.' The Governor answered, 'That will add to my strength; it should be procured quickly.'

Fifthly Mīr A'azam said, 'It is written that the Pādshāh's uncle and a wazir have marched with a large army to capture Nāsīr Jang.' The Governor replied, 'Write that I am rejoiced to hear this. May such glad news come daily.'

Sixthly Mīr A'azam said, 'Instead of writing that there was news that Amānat Khān (Mubariz Khān's son) was marching against Nāsīr Jang, Muzaffar Khān has written the opposite.' The Governor said, 'Reply that, henceforth, Chandā Sāhib

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1 Presumably this was why Chandā Sāhib prevented Gopil from attacking Tanjore on the evening of February 10. La Riche to Dupleix, February 24, 1750 (P.R. No. 84, f. 205).
should write about all things without informing Muzaffar Khân.

Seventheenthly Mir A'azam said, 'I have been ordered to tell you that a letter should be written to the Company by the Europe ships saying that 3,000 Europeans and 2,000 Coffees are needed and that Chandâ Sâhib will pay them so long as he remains Nawâb.' The Governor said, 'Tell Chandâ Sâhib to write asking me to apply to the Company in Europe for 3,000 soldiers and 2,000 Coffees and promising, if they are sent, to maintain them so long as he is Nawâb.' He agreed to do so.

Eighteenthly Mir A'azam said, 'I have been ordered to ask you for 1,000 muskets, cartridges, red-lead, etc.' The Governor replied, 'Write that I will supply the four or five hundred sepoys who are coming with muskets, bayonets, cartridges, etc. I cannot do more.'

Ninethly Mir A'azam said, 'When we were here before, the carpets you offered us were refused; but the carpets spread in the tents during the Tanjore war have been eaten by white ants. Please furnish us from the Company's warehouses with all the carpets, large or small, that are available.' The Governor answered, 'Write that I will send them by boat to Kârikâl with orders to send them up to camp, where they will be received.' He sent for M. Cornet and ordered him to have them sent.

Tentheenthly, the Governor said that a letter had come last night from 'Ali Naqi Sâhib saying that diwân Morô Pandit and Khâzi Ahmad had set out from his camp at Mathunigiri near Peddapallâpuram and were marching with 1,000 horsemen to Trichinopoly, to offer terms to Muzaffar Jang. He asked Mir A'azam if it was true. He replied, 'It is so; messengers reported this when I was setting out for Pondicherry.' The Governor replied, 'Write to Chandâ Sâhib and Muzaffar Jang that they owe their power to me, that we are as three heads under one hat, that we shall come to naught if one of us be destroyed; no agreement therefore should be made with Nâsîr Jang without my consent; Morô Pandit and Khâzi Ahmad should be shown all respect when they arrive, but, when they begin to talk about peace, it should be answered that, though we have three bodies, our life is one, that peace cannot be made without me, and that if the matter is to be settled satisfactorily, they must come here.' Mir A'azam said that he would do so and the Governor added that he also would write to the same effect.

Eleventhly Mir A'azam said, 'I am ordered to tell you that soldiers are confidently reported to have arrived on board the ships; if some be sent, men will say that you have sent 4,000, so our enemies' hearts will burst with fear.' The Governor replied, 'Write that only a few soldiers have arrived, and if I send any from here, the attack on Vellore must be put off.'

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\(^1\) This man is subsequently called Khâzi Dâyem. \(^2\) Le, Nâsîr Jang's.
Twelfthly Mir A'azam said that Chandâ Sâhib needed broadcloth and serge. The Governor said he could give serge but no broadcloth. Mir A'azam continued, 'His Highness Chandâ Sâhib and his son, Razâ Sâhib, have ordered me to say that they cannot thank you sufficiently for your protection and your re-establishing the fallen Navâits. You have delivered over to the Company the 36 villages of Bâhûr, the 46 villages of Villyanallâr and the 81 villages including Tirunallâr, etc., added as an inam to Kârikâl. Moreover the five or six lakhs of ready money bestowed have been absorbed by the officers and the soldiers, so that you have gained nothing. If more lands were given, you would again hand them over to the Company, so I am charged to tell you that you shall be gratified by large sums given secretly out of the money procured from Tanjore.' The Governor said, 'All that is true. Whatever they may offer me now in mine is mine. Say they may do as they please.'

Sunday, February 15. —I heard this morning that the Prince and Thévenepatam which sailed for Europe and Mascareigne respectively at four o'clock this morning were still in sight at seven o'clock this morning on account of unfavourable winds, but afterwards disappeared.

1 7th Mâsi, Sâhâ.
2 From her name she must have been a small country-boat. She is occasionally mentioned in the correspondence of Duplex.