

done this, what wonder that others should be flying here with their goods? The people of Villupuram and Tanduvalavanallûr¹ are said to be flying in panic.

When M. Bury, Madame Desjardins and others reached Valudâvûr fort this morning on a visit to M. Véry,² 20 or 30 guns were fired from the Fort on their arrival and while they were at table, in honour of his father-in-law³ and mother-in-law. But all thought a battle had begun, and fled in panic even from distant places.

*Wednesday, August 30.*⁴—As Ânaiya Pillai's son, Ranga Pillai, has been writing about the plunder of the country and the burning of the villages by Muhammad 'Alî Khân's people, the Governor was troubled and anxious, and spent this evening in despatching reinforcements.

*Thursday, August 31.*⁵—I heard this morning, after reporting the news to the Governor, that Muhammad 'Alî Khân's troops, encamped near Tirukkânji yesterday, had plundered

¹ Probably Valavanûr, 7 miles east of Villupuram.

² Jacques Véry de Saint Romain married Françoise Eléonore Desjardins, April 26, 1751. He seems to have accompanied La Bourdonnais on his expedition in 1746, and then remained in India. His commission as Lieutenant was dated October 25, 1750. Madame Desjardins, mentioned in the text, was Laurence Cosson de la Lande, whose sister, Elisabeth, had married Bury.

³ His father-in-law, Guillaume Desjardins, was dead. Probably Bury is meant.

⁴ 18th *Āvani, Āgīrasa.*

⁵ 19th *Āvani, Āgīrasa.*

Pûranânkuppam near Ariyânkuppam, Alisapâkkam and other places and driven off the cattle, just as was done at Villiyannallûr, Odiyampattu and other villages. Horsemen surrounded Ranga Pillai and his ten matchlock people, at Lakshmana Nâyakkan's Choultry, but they escaped to Valudâvûr; and when Kônapparangi with some guards and horsemen arrived thence and opened fire, the horsemen fled, before M. Kerjean with our army could reach Lakshmana Nâyakkan's Choultry from Valudâvûr.

At four this evening, the poligar's peons on the Madras road reported that a Moghul had arrived in a palankin, with four horses and ten harkaras bringing the Pâdshâh's parwâna with letters from Salabat Jang, M. Bussy, etc. He is at Sôlaitândavan's Choultry, and when he was questioned, he said what is above written, which he desired to be reported to the Governor. This has been done accordingly, and the peons dismissed. I then put on my gown, and was about to go out when a peon came and summoned me to the Governor. I went to him at the custom-house on the Beach, where he was with the Superior of the St. Paul's Church, and saluted him from a distance. He called me to him, and said, 'A Moghul noble and mansabdar with the Pâdshâh's parwâna is at Nainiya Pillai's Choultry. Go and fetch him in,

lodge him in M. Renault's chamber at the washing-place and supply him with all the provisions he desires.' I took my leave and sent word to the Moghul, who had halted outside the northern bound-hedge. I myself went to the washing-place to desire M. Renault to get his lodgings ready, and then met the Moghul in the tamarind garden by Sôlaitândavan's Choultry. The Moghul advanced and embraced me and invited me to sit, himself sitting at a distance. He said, 'The Dîwân Sâhib has praised you and has spread your fame and glory as far as Delhi, inasmuch as you compassed the death of the Subahdar of the Deccan, acquired glory for the French and obtained for them Masulipatam and other countries, yielding a revenue of 25 or 30 lakhs, whereby your glory shall last as long as the world shall endure. How can I with a single mouth describe your glory?' I replied to his compliments, declaring that, by the good fortune of Mahârâjâ His Highness the Nawâb Governor-General Sâhib, his dependants had all become glorious, and that those who had merely touched his feet had earned the title of Pâdshâh. How then could I describe his excellence? I then asked why he had come. Hereplied, 'Formerly Râmadâs Pandit requested the Pâdshâh's illustrious parwâna from Mansûr 'Alî Khân and obtained it when Bhâji

Râo had been overthrown; but as he died before sending it, it was delayed. Salabat Jang has now given it to me with a dress of honour for the Governor, another for Madame and a third for her daughter, together with letters from himself and M. Bussy. I left a month ago and arrived to-day. My name is Yûsuf Bâshi Khân and I am the sardâr of a thousand horse.' Thus he related his whole business. I said, 'I hear you have some other business as well which you have not yet mentioned.' He answered, 'What is unknown to the dîwân? I have also brought a parwâna of confirmation for Arcot. It is to be given to the Governor to be sent to Muhammad 'Alî Khân, on condition that he will obey the Governor.' 'When are you going to Muhammad 'Alî Khân?' I asked. He said that he would go as soon as he had delivered the Pâdshâh's illustrious parwâna, but he could not say when that would be; his instructions were to follow the Nawâb Sâhib's orders. He added, 'Letters have already been sent to the Governor about

¹ Cf. Bussy's letter to Dupleix, July 21, 1752 (*ap. Mémoire pour le sieur Godeheu*, p. 68), recommending Dupleix to come to terms with Muhammad 'Alî. The Imperial parwâna had been the subject of discussion for some time. In October, 1751, Bussy announced that a lakh of rupees had been sent to Delhi to procure it (see his letter *ap. Hamout, Dupleix*, p. 166). If the money really was sent, the farman may really have been genuine; but its value in either case may be judged from the fact that at this moment Ghâzi-ud-dîn, the Emperor's favourite, was seeking to overthrow Salabat Jang and the French.

Muhammad 'Alî Khân's affair, so you need not mention it. I will tell him when I meet him.' I agreed and said, 'The Governor has ordered me to take you to the washing-place and lodge you in the great house there.'—'I will go there to-morrow morning,' he said, 'for my tents are already pitched and they are preparing my meal, so I cannot go now.' After he had complimented me and begged me to present his respects to the Governor, I took leave and went to the Governor's, where I delivered my message and said that he would go to the washing-place to-morrow morning. The Governor desired that he should write and send by his harkaras a short letter to Muhammad 'Alî Khân as follows:—'I have brought the Pâdshâh's parwâna to Nawâb Governor-General Sâbat Jang Sâhib Avargal with letters from Salabat Jang, Saiyid Lashkar Khân and others, together with the Pâdshâh's present of cloth, with a sword and [dagger?]. I have also brought Salabat Jang's parwâna and Saiyid Lashkar Khân's *inâyat-nâma*,¹ etc., addressed to you. With these I reached Pondichery this day. I have heard of the troubles here. Such things are not necessary. You should not burn houses or trouble the people, until I have visited Nawâb General Sâhib

¹ A letter of recommendation, or a written order from a superior.

Avargal and given him the Pâdshâh's parwâna and presents, and then I will visit you.'

When the Governor desired me to return and cause this letter to be written, I said, 'When I spoke to him in Hindustani, the Bâshi answered me in Persian; so if some one who speaks Persian is sent, everything can be clearly said and written.'—'Does he speak Persian?' the Governor asked. I replied, 'He is a Persian by birth, and wears a tall cap like those worn by the men who accompanied Tahmasp Quli Khân, when he attacked Muhammed Shâh at Delhi.' The Governor then told a chobdar to fetch M. Delarche, and, having called his wife who was near, told her what I had said. She replied that neither M. Delarche nor I should be sent, as we knew less than Madanânda Pandit; so she insisted that on no account should we be sent. But without listening to her, the Governor sent for M. Delarche and told me to go with him. Accordingly we went to the Moghul.

When M. Delarche had explained in Persian the reason of our visit, the other said he could not read or write Persian, but that the letter might be written out in Persian and he would send his seal to be affixed. Accordingly he directed Saiyid Muhammad, one of his attendants who wore the tall cap, to take horse and sent him away with us bearing his seal.

The Governor was at table. But when he heard of our arrival, he came out to us, welcomed Saiyid Muhammad, and desired him to sit down at table. He was offered bread with sweetmeats, fruit, etc., but only ate the bread and fruit.

When dinner was over, he told M. Delarche to ask Madanânda Pandit's Persian mulla to write a letter to Muhammad 'Alî Khân; then it was put in a sealed cover, and given to the Moghul harkaras who were despatched to Muhammad 'Alî Khân at Tirukkânji with Company's peons to show them the way. The Moghul then returned to his camp near the Bound-hedge. M. Delarche went home. When I went to the Governor to take leave before going home, he said that the Moghul must be received with great pomp and that though he had only brought the Pâdshâh's parwâna, a sword, *turra*, *sarpêch*, cloths and other presents must be brought in as though they also had been sent, salutes must be fired, and a great feast given. He added that we must also give presents and the naubat, etc., must be sent to meet him. 'If we do so,' he said, 'all will know it and Muhammad 'Alî Khân and the English will be deafened with the sound. Let the master-gunner be sent for and a tent pitched west of the road beyond the north gate.'

I accordingly sent for the master-gunner and told him to pitch the tent on the open ground opposite the road and spread carpets inside the tent.

He then said that to-morrow some one must receive the Bednûr vakîl, bring him in, and arrange a lodging for him. I observed that it was not fitting for me to go out to meet him, but that Madanânda Pandit or some one else might be sent. He then told Madanânda Pandit to go. He replied, 'Bednûr is a large state, and should be treated with as much respect as the Râjâ of Mysore.' So he told me to receive and bring him in. Being unwilling to oppose him, I agreed and came home.