

about Paramānanda Pillai, I described him and Rāmalinga Pillai also. He asked about Masulipatam and I told him about the money made there by Mandāla Reddi.

Just then the Secretary brought the contract for Villiyanallūr and Bâhūr, for the signatures of the Governor and the rest of council, except M. du Bausset who is sick. As we were talking thus, M. Barthélemy's arrival was reported; but the Governor sent word to him to wait. So he waited.

All say that the Governor, who usually says nothing, uttered at least a thousand words to-day, and I four thousand. At half-past eleven I and the Governor came out. He came down to inspect M. Godeheu's cloth that is being packed, and the Mâthiripâkkam cloth, 4 cubits wide and 32 cubits long; he remarked that better kinds of cloths could be had in Bengal; then he looked at the bell that M. Dupleix got from Europe for 60,000 rupees. At last he went upstairs. I took leave and came home.

*Thursday, April 10.*¹—When I had paid my respects and reported the news to the Governor at the Fort this morning, he took me apart into his room and asked the news. I first gave him the Governor's new seal with which

¹ 1st Chittirai, Yuga.

he was pleased.¹ Then I gave him the French translation of Nandi Râjâ's letter and the French writing about Vinâyaka Pillai's affair. He remarked that Vinâyaka Pillai was said to be involved in debt. I replied, 'What of that? His debts may amount to ten or twenty thousand in small sums, but his property must have been worth four or five lakhs, out of which M. Dupleix swallowed 2 lakhs, as he complained to M. Godeheu. Even now he manages the household affairs of M. Barthélemy, M. Delarche and M. du Bausset. His pay is only two pagodas, so how did he come by so much? Neither by trade nor as a renter, but by thievery he got it all. Men would give a lakh of rupees every year for his appointment. His cousin, Parasurâma Pillai, who formerly held the post, is here. He offers to pay 50,000 rupees if he does not prove the other to be worth three lakhs of rupees.' I then introduced Parasurâma Pillai who offered a nazar of 500 pagodas, and narrated the circumstances of his case. The Governor nodded, gave him rose water and *pân supârî*, and told him to wait outside.

The Governor then asked about Pâpayya Pillai. I related his whole story—his former beggary, his being made by Madame Dupleix,

¹ The seal or 'chop' with the Governor's name and titles in Persian, used to authenticate the Country Correspondence.

the consequent mismanagement of affairs, and his profits and those of his people to the ruin of all business. Thereon the Governor said that, if that was so, half the people of the town should be imprisoned, but that would not look well. 'No such thing,' I replied; 'if a couple were imprisoned or pressed, the rest would come with offers of their own accord.' He answered that the Company's business must be remembered as well as one's own. I replied, 'The Company's business must come first; then private affairs will prosper. Vinâyakan has given Râmalingam a palankin and sent him to Trichinopoly. First his affair and that of Paramânandan must be settled. He¹ should be sent for immediately.' He agreed to do so; and asked what reply should be written to Nandi Râjâ: I replied that it should run as follows:—'I am much pleased with your letter of congratulation on my appointment. I will show you more kindness than did M. Godeheu. But let not the moneys owing to us be forgotten.' He told me to write this out in French and asked if he would pay if pressed. 'Undoubtedly,' I replied; 'Salabat Jang is coming; and astrologers say that from July 13 all our affairs will prosper and we

¹ i.e., Râmalingam

shall hold large countries. The English and Muhammad 'Alî Khân have now taken from us Madura, Tinnevely, Nadumandalam, etc. We must not stand idle but take suitable measures.'—'What you say is true'; the Governor said, 'but there must be no room for complaint. Our conduct must be just and proper. So reflect over this and tell me. I will do as you say. Did M. Dupleix really believe in astrology?' I replied, 'He had no faith in astrology until two predictions had been fulfilled; then he believed; and was enabled to secure the capture of the ships, the taking of Madras, the defeat of the English, the deaths of Anwar-ud-dîn Khân and of Nâsîr Jang, the conquest of countries and the acquisition of wealth.'—'Who foretold these?' he asked. I replied that the predictions were made by Malabar astrologers, whose predictions always prove true. 'What do they foretell now?' he asked. I replied that they expected great good fortune. I think he now believes in astrology. Thus to-day we discussed several affairs. His manner of questioning and train of thought make me think that he has many things in view.

M. Desfresnes came and said that 4,000 rupees had been offered for the old Nayinâr's affair. The Governor asked how a European could know of that. I replied that it must have