

case,' I replied, 'it must be deducted from the rent.'—'That will not do,' the Governor replied angrily; 'you must allow it.' I did not care to persist at the time, so I told the faqîr to come to my house, and took leave. The notary and the faqîr departed.

The Governor then asked me if the Chettis of Vikravândi had really built a temple here. I replied, 'When the people here can hardly maintain the existing temples, how can they have built a new one? A few of the Chettis' houses inhabited by mendicants,<sup>1</sup> may have fallen down and been repaired; but that is all; there is no temple being built.' But the Governor repeated that a temple had really been built, and told me to make enquiries. I replied, 'I will do so, as you tell me to; but what I have said must be true. I am sure a new temple cannot have been built, for that is a special thing. Should not I know of it?' But in spite of my words, he still told me to enquire, so I agreed.

Then he asked me about the Chettis. I said that the Chettis, smiths, and carpenters, etc., belonged to the left-hand castes. 'What do you mean by left-hand castes?' he asked. I showed him my two hands, saying, 'Chettis,

<sup>1</sup> The word used is *Pandâram* which means Saivite mendicants.

Kammâlas,<sup>1</sup> Kollars,<sup>2</sup> Chucklers and others form the left-hand castes; while Kômuttis and others form the right-hand; Brâhmans and Idaiyans belong to neither.'—'Why are Idaiyans outside this division?' the Governor asked. 'That is,' I said, 'because God was born in the form of a man in an Idaiyan's house.'<sup>3</sup> They are neutral by reason of that great event.' After talking thus for about an hour, I took leave and came home.

*Friday, March 19.* <sup>4</sup>—According to my horoscope Jupiter is in the twelfth house; people say that the Company's new merchants will be removed and the old merchants restored, and that trade will flourish on a large scale. They also say that Appâji Pandit, and his younger brother Krishnâji Pandit (Vittal Pandit's sons) are arranging through M. d' Auteuil to remove Venkatâchala Reddi, the present poligar of Turaiyûr and re-appoint Pâpu Reddi.

I hear that Murtazâ 'Alî Khân of Vellore formerly wrote (when the English attacked his fort) that, if help were sent him, he would pay the Governor a lakh of rupees besides 50,000 rupees to the Company, and

<sup>1</sup> Artisans. See Thurston, *Castes and Tribes*, Vol. III, p. 106.

<sup>2</sup> See Thurston, *op. cit.* III, 305.

<sup>3</sup> An allusion to Sri Krishna's having been brought up as a shepherd. The Diarist himself belonged to the Idaiyan caste.

<sup>4</sup> *10th Panguñi, Yuva.*