

displeasure with the Governor for not having carried out the instructions left behind at his departure. I am a councillor and yet he makes a wry face at me. As the matter of perquisites and contingencies has been already decided by the Council, their records will be of no avail to him in the matter.' On hearing this message from M. Boyelleau, I asked the dubâsh to tell M. Boyelleau that orders had been given to enter the perquisites and contingencies in the accounts separate from the amounts paid for the *izara*, but that it had not been done in the old accounts and that these items have been included in the new lease drawn up for this year.

I hear that, as the amaldârs have been delaying the despatch of money on the plea of the disturbances raised by [the Goddess] Mâriyamman, 50 guards with 30 Christian peons and catechists were sent yesterday to Villupuram and other places to seize men and give 50 stripes to those who say that they are possessed, and convert them into Christians.

*Thursday, February 10.*¹—As to-day I was costive through indigestion, I stayed at home, fasted till evening and then took a diet. Nayinâr the head-peon came and said, 'South of Kûnimêdu and north of Pudupêttai, a dead

¹ 3rd Mâsi, Dhâthu.

fish has been driven ashore. It is 160 feet long, 16 feet wide and 25 feet high. Its outer skin is like palmyra bark; below the ear there are 100 or 120 pendant pieces like this one. The ear is as black and thick as that of an elephant and about one cubit broad, and 1½ cubits long; the black hairs on it are like steel rods about a cubit long and as stout as lentil pods, and smell horribly when burnt. In the middle of the fish's back is a growth as high as a man and like the elephant's trunk. Thousands of fishes as big as elephants and horses are swarming round to eat it. I asked the *Pattanavars*¹ to go near in a boat, but they refused, saying that the fishes devouring it would dash against the boat and seize it, and perhaps kill them. My entreaties were of no avail. The stench is unbearable. The Governor ordered it to be brought in by means of ship's ropes and catamarans, but I have to say that a mountain may be brought more easily than this object. The fishes allow no one to approach it but kill them.' About three-fourths of the townspeople—Europeans, Muhammadans, Lubbais, Pariahs, Sûdras and others—have gone to see it. All say that they have never seen such a thing before. In

¹ East-Coast fishermen. See Thurston's *Castes and Tribes*, Vol. VI, pp. 177, etc.

M. Dupleix' time, in the year *Prabhava*,¹ a fish 30 feet long and 5 feet high was driven ashore north of the Pondichery fort, and in consequence, the English surrounded the town in *Vibhava*,² and then there were troubles which, ended in the death of Anwar-ud-dîn Khân and Salabat Jang and many others. As a stranger creature has now been seen, I do not know what strange things are going to happen.

*Wednesday, February 16.*³—I went to the Fort this morning. The Second had a boil on the leg and did not come, but the rest were sorting cloth in the sorting-godown. When I was there with them, I heard the following news :—Packer Lakshmana Maistry procured a loan of 2,000 rupees for the Ariyânkuppam business and subsequently got possession of the village. The inhabitants not liking this, complained to the Governor who summoned the Maistry and directed him to quit the village and return the bond. The Maistry replied that he had left the bond with the people who had lent the money ; so he was ordered to produce it or be imprisoned in the Choultry. He was accordingly taken there. On hearing this, M. Cornet and M. Lenoir remarked in anger that the Governor must

¹ 1747-48,² 1748-49,³ 9th Mâsi, Dhâthu .

have gone mad to seize and imprison packers like this to the hindrance of the packing, that he must have done this by Kandan's words, that he had ruined the country and put the Company to ruinous loss, and that Kandan's injustice was indescribable. They then both went to the Governor and talked to him about it. The latter in reply only ordered the Maistry to be kept at the packing place at the Fort.

M. Guillard's Râmachandra Râo then came and said, 'The commandant at Vriddhachalam was kept within proper bounds till now as M. Guillard had arranged. But now, though permission had been first given to take the God in procession, the commandant ordered peons to use force, when the God was taken into the streets ; whereon the people threw down the God and fled ; dancing-girls were ravished, *nâttârs* and cultivators seized, fined, and shut up in the temple ; and when they agreed to pay the fine and were released, they too fled, so that their women and children have been seized and shut up in the Fort ; and the *nâttârs* who were seized and have been kept under guard, are being sent here, according to orders, but are not being supplied with food by the way and have reached Villianallûr. Amaldâr Srînivâsa Râo who was sent to settle

the affair is in custody.' Thus much injustice is being done in the country.

The news to-day is that when Ayyan Sâstri was about to send money from Wandiwash, the Goddess Mâriyamman said that she was going to rule for nine years, and that therefore the money should be given to her instead of to the ruler. Thereupon Ayyan Sâstri kept quiet. But when the peon who had gone was about to take the money that was ready tied up, he bled at the nose and mouth. He therefore wrote to Savarirâya Pillai. Savarirâya Pillai's younger brother proposed to defy the Goddess and send guards for the money; but this idea brought a severe dysentery on him and he suffered very much, until Savarirâya Pillai prayed telling his Padré that, if his brother were cured, he would give 1,000 rupees, and tied up a certain amount for it, and immediately he became better.

This is what I have heard of the strange sight seen in Mailam:—When all were worshipping the God and witnessing the ceremonies, four Reddis who were possessed of the Goddess said that the offerings to her must not be distributed but stored in a room; and that all must give her money when they witnessed the ceremonies till dawn; that, as she had been beaten in Pondichery she would not go there, but send two bronze cars with steel axles and

2,000 Râkshasas, that she had come to rule the country for nine years, and had ordered the crops to be harvested in certain places on condition that half the produce should be given to the cultivators, and the other half left on the threshing floor. She has given 60 pagodas to a bachelor for his marriage, and has appeared to several persons surrounded by the four kinds of troops—elephants, horse, etc., torches and coloured lights; those who commit mistakes or blaspheme her, vomit blood and die. A Reddi who blasphemed her saw all his cattle lying as if dead where they were tied up, but straightway he prayed, whereon she ordered turmeric and chunam to be mixed and sprinkled on the cattle, and all the cattle revived and stood up. I have heard several other like stories.

*Tuesday, February 22.*¹—It was raining this morning, so I did not go to the Fort, but stayed at home.

At mid-day Râmayya Pillai came to my house and said, 'Letters have been received from the Company ordering the bonds to be examined and the sums owed by M. Dupleix to several people here ascertained and written out. So the Company's merchants and others are bringing their bonds and

¹ 15th Mâsi, Dhâthu.