

V'aux étaient sur le point de couler à fond,¹ effectivement après ces deux capitaines en étaient sortis avec leurs équipages qu'ils furent engloutis dans le Gange.

Ces Messieurs firent mettre le feu à 19 autres vaisseaux ou embarcations de Caste qui étaient mouillés devant Chandernagor pour enlever aux Anglais l'avantage d'une si bonne siège, les particuliers en souffrent beaucoup et encore plus la Compagnie qui se ressentira considérablement de cette perte qui ne peut être réparée que par une longue suite des années.

Bengale deviendra désormais un séjour aussi triste que le côte Coromandel, les Européens ont commencé contre l'usage à porter le fer et le feu dans le Gange, ils finiront par s'y ruiner eux-mêmes entièrement et à trainer une vie de misère parce que le feu de la discorde qui est toujours allumé chez eux . . . fera naître l'envie de se donner à chacun des cris[?] de mounsubdars, de Nabab &c. L'Inde est totalement culbutée, il n'y aura plus rien à faire, Mr. Deleyrit perd dans cette expédition de Bengale 10 mille roupies au moins, Mr. le Noir 60 mille, Mr. Law entièrement ruiné. Mrs. Renaud, de la Porterie, Nicolas sont réduits à rien aussi des autres à proportion

¹ Actually sunk by the French before the attack in order to block the passage against Watson's advance up the river.

qui sont donnés de tout ou du moins ont fort peu de chose.

Mr. Rimont [*sic*] dans l'attaque a reçu une blessure d'un coup de pierre dont il est mort trois jours après la prise.

When I went this morning to pay my respects to the Governor, I found him upstairs. He was moody and stared at me repeatedly. About nine o'clock, he went into his room, and I went to my office in the flower-garden.

A French letter has been received containing the following news about the fight in Bengal.

Mr. Clive, the commander in Bengal, appeared before the French town of Chandernagore on March 7,¹ 1757, with Europeans, Topasses, Coffrees—1,200 in all—8,000 sepoys and 50,000 Bengal sepoys. On the 8th he captured the camp equipage and surrounded and besieged the town from the 9th to 16th.² The siege grew fiercer and fiercer. At last M. Renault de St. Germain, the Directeur-General of our French factory, fought very bravely, but could not hold out, so he concluded peace with the English and surrendered the fort with its goods, treasure &c., in great despair.³ The Directeur-General, the Second

¹ He did not encamp before Chandernagore until the 12th.

² The place capitulated March 23.

³ The articles of capitulation are printed in Hill's *Bengal*, Vol. II, p. 292.

and the troops, people, merchants and all were taken prisoners of war. Some women with their children and goods had departed before the war to the Dutch factory at Chinsura. M. la Vigne Buisson, the captain of the Europe ship, the *Saint-Priest*, which lay at anchor off Chandernagore, and M. Champigny, captain of a country ship, resisted the English well, and when unable to hold out any longer, in order to avoid delivering their ships to the English, they unloaded the cargo of the two ships and set them on fire together with 19 boats &c., belonging to the merchants, preferring to sink them all with the boats in the Ganges rather than let them fall into the enemy's hands. The merchants' losses are proportionate to their income and the Company's loss is great. Ever since the establishment of Bengal such a fierce battle has never been fought nor such heavy losses sustained. This misfortune has been brought about by the evil stars of this town. Now that the Europeans are fighting here as fiercely as they do in their own country, and raining fire on the Ganges, the Muhammadans who are now weak will grow stronger and flourish, for the hat-wearers cannot now make a cash by their trade in Bengal, the Tamils will be ruined, and trade will fall. M. Leyrit, the Governor, must have lost about a lakh of rupees,

M. Lenoir about 60,000, and M. Law his whole fortune. Others also must have suffered losses. M. Renault who was wounded by a shot from a great gun died on the third day after the capture of the fort.¹

I hear that M. Saubinet who arrived this evening, set out again immediately with 100 soldiers, but his destination is unknown. In this battle in Bengal, M. Champigny, M. Renault, and M. du Bausset's brother-in-law, and sister-in-law,² besides captains and officers have been killed.

*Tuesday, May 3.*³—I hear to-day that M. Saubinet has been daily attacking Udaiyârpâlaiyam and the fort there with one or two hundred European and Topass infantry; and that Kônêri Nâyakkan who has gone to Udaiyârpâlaiyam has been asked by the Udaiyâr to pay two lakhs of rupees. As the English have captured the French town of Chandernagore in Bengal, and there are few troops at Fort St. David, I think the troops who are being sent, may march upon Fort St. David, though they are pretending to march towards Udaiyârpâlaiyam.

¹ This seems to be an elaborated version of the French passage of the Diary printed above, page 371.

² I think relatives of du Bausset's wife, Marie Leridé, born at St. Thomé, whom he married in 1741. For a curious reference in this connection see *Lettres et Conventions*, p. 268.

³ 25th Chittirai, Âwara.

I hear that yesterday Kandappa Mudali sent for Venkatanâranappa Ayyan, the Mysore vakîl, by Gôpâlakrishna Ayyan and offered to capture the Trichinopoly fort for them in 20 days if the Mysore people promised to pay 20 lakhs of rupees besides the arrears. Venkatanâranappa Ayyan agreed to this, and despatched letters and men to Mysore.

I also hear that Tândavarâya Pillai's younger brother has been despatched to Eravâsanallûr which will yield a revenue of two lakhs of gold [chakrams].

As Ponnâchi and Kanda Pillai are coming here from Chingleput, M. Goupil was asked for gate-passes to admit them. When he had given these, he was further asked for passes for people to go out and welcome them, but these he refused saying that he must have the Governor's orders for it. My man therefore turned to go, but M. Goupil called him back and taking him to the Governor said, 'This man asked for passes for those that are coming, and I have given them; and then he asked for passes for those who are going out to receive them. I declined.'—'You cannot do that,' the Governor replied, 'they are free to go and come.' My man returned therefore and said that passes had been given for those who are going out. On the

13th *Kârttigai*, *Dhâthu*,¹ this Governor ordered the gate-people not to allow people to pass and to-day he has revoked that order. Did I commit any mistake in the month of *Kârttigai* to merit such hindrance, and what have I done to-day for him to cancel that order? So what is destined to happen happens at the appointed time.

The news to-day is as follows:—When Chandâ Sâhib's son and 'Alî Naqî Sâhib sent word about the receipt of presents from Taqî Sâhib, Madanânda Pandit went immediately with the Governor's palankin and music and put the dress of honour, etc., in the palankin; and a Muhammadan who is with Chandâ Sâhib's son and accompanied the stallion with white face and legs, was carried in the palankin as though he were a nawâb sent by Taqî Sâhib, and borne into the Fort to the place where the Governor usually gets down. When the Muhammadan went upstairs, the Governor advanced a long distance to receive him and embraced and took him in. A salute of 11 guns was then fired. The presents are:—A stallion with white face and legs, a laced dress of honour, a few rolls of silk, a chain with a pendant, *turra* and a *bazuband*. The Muhammadan then said that he had been sent

¹ November 24, 1756.

by Taqî Sâhib, and delivered a letter with compliments. When the Governor asked his age, he was told it was about 70. I hear the Governor said that he wished to see him again and that he would take an opportunity to do so.

I hear that, in reply to the Nânâ's letter received yesterday about the *chauth*, a reply was written yesterday as follows :—'About the *chauth* you have mentioned, I write to inform you that, when two of our ships which were despatched from Bengal to Mocha touched at Surat, your men and the Nawâb of Surat seized them and plundered about five lakhs of rupees. We are friends and I have been willing to benefit you in many affairs. But after such conduct of your people, how can I continue to be friends with you? Write to them therefore to restore our ships and goods. All the country here has been seized by the English except that portion which is in our possession. You should deal suitably with the English to get money.' This letter was written by means of Narasinga Râo's gumastah and despatched, with this addition that good presents would be given for the return of the ships.

I also hear that, on learning the loss of Elamânasûr, the killedar of Chêtpattu wrote to Muhammad 'Alî Khân and hoisted the white flag in the fort, thus making it appear that it

has passed into their possession, with a view to his own protection. Mîr Sâhib's women and others were seized and imprisoned yesterday.

*Wednesday, May 4.*¹—I went to M. Lenoir's house to-day but hearing that he had gone to the Fort to attend the council, I went there and paid my respects to the Governor upstairs. He thanked me and went to the council-chamber with the councillors and the Second. I went to the office in the flower-garden and thence came home at noon.

At five o'clock a man came and told me that the Second wanted me. I went at six. He returned at seven from his drive, and when I had paid my respects, he said, 'Troubles are impending between us and the English. Can any money be expected from the country and is there any one able to provide some?' I said that there was no one. I then went to the office in the flower-garden where I heard that the council had decided to declare war, and sent M. Chevreau as commissary with orders for the Europeans, Topasses and others to march to Srîrangam, that the European writers had been enrolled as sentinels, that the councillors and the Second had each been entrusted with definite duties, and that Trichinopoly

¹ 26th Chittirai, Îswara.

would be attacked. I understand that the Second has been entrusted with the management of the finances.

When I went to Gôpâlaswâmi's house, he told me that Gôpâlanârâyanappa Ayyan's son had said to him, 'The Villupuram country which will yield a revenue of a lakh and ten thousand this year, has been leased for 80,000 and that the remaining 30,000 has been eaten up by expenses. I mention this to you now as it may be useful as a proof on a subsequent occasion. I asked Savarirâya Pillai why the country had been rated so low. He replied that he had had nothing to do with it and that Wazârat Râyar¹ was responsible for the balance. My father told me that he would tell Wazârat Râyar about it when he met him and publish all the items of expenditure. Please tell the Wazârat Râyar about it.'

*Saturday, May 7.*²—Large sums of money are due from the poligar of Udaiyârpâlaiyam for Bhuvanagiri and other countries under his control, and for the matter of plunder. Moreover large sums are due as peshkash from the poligar of Gingee. Though I sent vakîl Venkata Râo many a time to demand this, he has paid nothing, and is behaving rebelliously. When I told the Governor about this, he wrote

¹ He who adorns the office of *wazir*, i.e., the Diarist.

² 29th Chittirai, Îswara.

to M. Maissin at Srîrangam to attack the Udaiyâr and collect the money. M. Maissin did so, but made his own account with the Udaiyâr, and after writing suitably to the Governor, returned to Pondichery. By this, the Company has lost its money. The Governor has now ordered Kônêri Nâyakkan who came here as the Turaiyûr vakîl, to proceed to Udaiyârpâlaiyam with M. d'Auteuil's army which was sent against Elamânasûr. Europeans, Topasses, and sepoys, have thus been sent with powder, shot and other munitions of war against the Udaiyâr and his fortress.

There is news that the English have seized a portion of the Masulipatam country and Mr. Clive, who captured our French settlement of Chandernagore in Bengal, means to march to Madras and capture the country in our hands here; the English from Cuddalore are troubling [us] right up to the Bound-hedge. Therefore all the white people have been enlisted, given guns and posted in batches of ten or twenty as guards on the road as far as my Choultry in the north, the Mortândi waterpandal, Villiyanallûr and Muttirusa Pillai's Choultry, with instructions to examine every one passing to and fro.

Moreover under the management of Vinâyaka Pillai, things are taking place unheard of since the foundation of the town. Poor

Agamudaiya widows who earn a bare and uncertain living by pounding rice and selling it, and who have scarcely a cloth to wear, are annoyed when they go about the streets with uncovered head by barbers detailed to seize such women in the streets, and pull away the cloth with which they cover their breasts, and tear off three cubits of it. Vinâyaka Pillai is causing so much injustice that I cannot bear the people's complaints. When the country was in my possession, I did not cause the least obstruction or beat anybody; but the complaints that were made were unheeded, culprits were not punished and those imprisoned for the debt to the Company were released without my knowledge. I do not know what orders the Governor can have given to Savarirâyan, who beats or punishes amaldârs, headmen and cultivators. If questioned, his replies are unspeakable. I think all this injustice reigns in the town because of the people's sins and the town's destined downfall.

*Sunday, May 8.*¹—This is the news of to-day:—During the attack on the Udaiyâr's fortress, the poligar sallied forth and inflicted some loss. Some were wounded and some killed. I hear a padre has been sent to give

¹ 30th Chittirai, Îswara.

absolution to the dying, according to the letter that has been received about it.

*Monday, May 9.*¹—I hear this morning that Vinâyaka Pillai and M. d'Auteuil who went to camp, left Pennâdam, after setting fire to the fence, and the troops have entered the Udaiyâr's country and burnt two villages.

Subbâ Jôsier predicted that this town would decline in prosperity, that those under the influence of Mercury would suffer misfortune, and troubles would arise from the south-west. According to this prediction, troubles arose in Udaiyârpâlaiyam and the fortress there, and there are fears about the town's future. As the Governor and the councillors have imposed a tax on castes and the town is destined to decline, we shall see what Mercury brings.

Twenty-five days ago the Governor in anger with Guntûr Bâli Chetti forbade him to enter the Fort. But to-day Guntûr Bâli Chetti must have done something to please Kandappan, for the latter allowed him to be admitted into the Fort with his accounts for Uppâthu Sâmbayan's affair. When Bâli Chetti went into the Fort with his accounts, he was told to wait downstairs while his accounts were being examined.

I hear that Kandappan sent for Kadâkumaran, Chandramati Pillai and Ella Pillai and obtained a five-year lease of three cawnies of

¹ 31st Chittirai, Îswara.