

of raising your matter in council as your agent.' Then I came home.

I hear that, as there is no money in the Fort, the goods brought from Fort St. David will be sold.

I also hear that in the hard battle between M. Lally's army and Manôji Appâ's, many were killed on both sides.

A European at the Fort gave me some good news and packer Muttayyan informed me of what M. Clouët had said when he asked him about the accounts.

*Sunday, August 13.*¹—When I was at home to-day, I heard that M. Soupire and his troops had returned to the Fort, that M. Lally (son of M. Lally's elder brother) had had a two-hours' conference with M. Leyrit at the *Gouvernement* after which M. Leyrit had shown tokens of despair, wringing his hands, writhing his body, sighing, and smiting the arms of his chair.

I also hear that M. Lally who is at Kârikâl will arrive here to-morrow in time for dinner, that his troops have retreated and that Sînapayyan and Razâ Sâhib have gone to Kârikâl.

*Monday, August 14.*²—I hear that M. Lally is in camp and that M. Saubinet has reached Kârikâl with 200 soldiers.

¹ 1st *Âvani*, *Bahudânya*.

² 2nd *Âvani*, [*Bahudânya*].

I heard this evening that our army had suffered heavy loss in the attack by the Tanjore people last Wednesday¹, although many of the latter had also been killed; that our army was retreating and nothing was known about M. Lally, that two of Pâpayya Pillai's elephants and guns and matchlocks had been lost and that some of our people had reached Kârikâl in their retreat. I drove out this evening and returned home at seven.

*Wednesday, August 16.*²—This is the news of to-day:—When at about three o'clock on the morning of August 9, M. Lally's troops were about to attempt to scale the walls of the Tanjore fort with the aid of heaps of straw, the Tanjore Râjâ's troops opened the north gate and attacked M. Lally's provision camp half an hour before our troops were to move; a severe battle followed, in which five or six Europeans were killed on the Tanjore side and 500 or 600 Europeans besides three high officers on M. Lally's.³ In consequence M. Lally and our troops retreated to Tiruvâlûr leaving everything behind. Razâ Sâhib who has marched from Kârikâl for Tiruvâlûr

¹ *i.e.*, the sally made by the Tanjoreans on August 9, when Lally was surprised and on the point of being killed when he was saved by a Coffree.

² 4th *Âvani*, *Bahudânya*.

³ Lally stated the loss as two servants killed, and one Hussar and four soldiers killed and wounded.

and visited M. Lally at the latter place means to attack the fort again with the help of the Sétupati and Tondimân. It is not known whether the English ships have left Kârikâl. Savarirâyan is going about, prostrating himself before the ships' captains in order to make his peace with them.

*Friday, August 18.*¹—The Dutch ship, which was intercepted and brought into the roads, on examination was found to have on board gold and silver worth two lakhs of rupees. The Dutch ship's captain was therefore told that the French had no money in the Fort and that the French King had made an agreement in Europe to the effect that ships belonging to any nation might be seized and their gold and silver money taken in return for bills payable in Europe including the profit. The captain being asked what profit he would make on his silver and gold, replied that it would be 30,000 rupees and asked that an additional sum should be allowed for expenses. I hear that a bill on Europe has been given accordingly and the money taken over.²

¹ 6th *Āvani*, *Bahudānya*.

² She was the *Haarlem* from Batavia for Negapatam, seized in revenge for the Dutch inaction when the *Rubis* was taken in the Negapatam roads. The alleged agreement was moonshine. Leyrit wrote on August 11 about the *Haarlem's* silver that it was an item of her cargo "auquel il me semble qu'il ne nous est guère permis de toucher ; cependant c'est celui de toute la cargaison qui nous serait le plus nécessaire . . . S'il est des cas où la nécessité force la loi, nous nous y trouvons aujourd'hui." *Mémoire pour Leyrit*, p. 141.

I also hear that M. Lally is coming here by way of Kârikâl and Negapatam.

*Saturday, August 19.*¹—I hear that the council which sat from eight o'clock till noon and again from four till eight at night, discussed what could be done by M. Lally who having broken his cannon and burnt his tents and guns, is returning from camp, where he has left his men, in great anger at not having been supplied with money for his camp-expenses or with provisions, powder and shot.² The Europeans in the town are going about the streets, stabbing people, throwing stones at them, troubling women at the town gates, showing people the Company's orders for their pay, quarrelling with them and demanding money of them for their expenses.

*Monday, August 21.*³—In the course of my conversation with the Second this morning at his house, where were also a few Europeans, he said, 'M. Lally wrote angry complaints against the councillors saying that, while he had been fighting on the battlefield, and

¹ 7th *Āvani*, [*Bahudānya*].

² The principal subject of discussion was d'Aché's intended departure to the Islands. See Leyrit to Lally August 18, 1758 and d'Aché to the Council, of the same date (Lally's *Pièces*, pp. 81-82).

³ 9th *Āvani*, *Bahudānya*.

though he had come from Europe with full powers to control the conduct of all, they had been thinking that they need not supply him with anything, hoping that the troops would disband after a few days' starvation, so that he himself would grow weak and die of his troubles and they, being no longer responsible to any one, could enjoy the Company's property that they had stolen, and that on his return he meant to ascertain why the army had been thus exposed to danger. M. Lally is wrong to blame all the councillors wholesale like this, for, before his departure, when he asked me whether Tanjore could be attacked, I advised him not to go, as the rivers and canals would be full, the fields in cultivation, and the ground so deep that the troops could only march with great difficulty. In spite of this, he blames us all. He should blame only those who advised him to go.' I then came home.

*Tuesday, August 22.*¹—I went to the Fort this morning where I heard that on a report that six fully equipped English men-of-war had reached Bombay, the French were preparing to send their ships away to Mascareigne in fear of what might happen when these six ships had arrived, as so much damage

¹ 10th *Āvani*, [*Bahudānya*].

had been suffered already from the ten ships [of the enemy].¹ I also heard that the English, having been reinforced, were capturing Chingleput, Utramallūr and Wandiwash countries northwards, that Krishna Rāo was capturing Tiruvarangam, Tirukkōyilūr, etc. places in the west; and that the English were making great preparations.

*Wednesday, August 23.*²—After I had returned home from the Fort this morning, I heard that, when M. Lally reached Kārikāl, he spoke very angrily to M. Porcher, demanding why he had not sent him provisions, etc.,³ to which M. Porcher replied that he was not to blame, for, although he had made all things ready, he could get neither coolies to carry them nor soldiers and foot to escort them for lack of money, the renters saying that they had none owing to the troubles. The renters have now been ordered to pay in money.

*Thursday, August 24.*⁴—After I had returned home from the Fort this morning, I heard that, when Chandā Sāhib's son visited M. Lally at Kārikāl, the latter received him

¹ This rumour does not seem to have been urged by d'Aché. I suppose it to have been popularly invented to account for his decision to depart.

² 11th *Āvani*, [*Bahudānya*].

³ Lally complained bitterly of Porcher, as incapable and worn-out with age, saying that his wife would have done better.

⁴ 12th *Āvani*, [*Bahudānya*].