

letter and I have read it.' Having told me this, Râmachandra Râo then went and talked with his elder brother Bâpû Râo, then with M. Boyelleau, and finally went to the European quarter. He looks as dejected to-day as he looked cheerful on Saturday.

M. Dubois came at eleven o'clock with the Bishop Padré and both talked with M. Leyrit. When they returned, Râmalinga Pillai who had accompanied M. Dubois went away after talking with Pâpayya Pillai. The Padré then drove away in his carriage. He must have talked about Râmachandra Râo's affair in the same way as he did in mine. Then I came home.

I also heard the following news to-day:— Owing to a quarrel the day before yesterday between M. Courtin's peon and an officer's Pariah cook, the peon complained to M. Courtin and had the Pariah given five or six stripes. The Pariah reported this to his officer, who told him to let him know when the peon was to be found at M. Courtin's house. The Pariah reported accordingly, whereon the officer went to M. Courtin's house and, finding the peon at the gate, seized and gave him 50 stripes, in spite of a crowd of a hundred persons including M. Courtin and M. and Mme. Porcher, attracted

<sup>1</sup> i.e., Dubois'.

by the peon's outcries. The officer carried the peon off to his house, gave him some 200 blows more and even made as if to hang him, putting a rope round his neck and tying it to a tree, which made him wail aloud, and then he was untied and driven away. On his complaining to M. Courtin of what had happened, the latter sent a peon with a letter to the officer; who tore the letter up, and, giving five or six blows to this peon also, sent him away. On learning this, M. Courtin sent another peon with a severe letter. The officer rubbed this letter in ordure, and returned it to the peon to be delivered to his master, telling him that, if he refused, he would be killed. The peon delivered the letter accordingly. M. Courtin thereupon went and complained to M. Lally; but the officer and four or five others had already complained to M. Lally, who replied angrily to M. Courtin. The latter, being thus disgraced, did not stir out of his house the whole of yesterday, nor had he visited the Fort up to this afternoon. The officer and five or six others belonging to the *Régiment de Lorraine* say that they will either run M. Courtin through with their swords or be run through by him. M. Porcher and Madame Porcher observed that M. Lally had dishonourably incited his officers to murder the councillors.

When I was returning home this afternoon M. Courtin's palankin was outside M. Moracin's house. His peon, on being asked why his master had not been seen for two days, replied that his master was melancholy.

I hear that M. Leyrit and M. [Le] Noir were busy writing letters at the Fort from three to eight o'clock to-night with doors closed; I think these letters must be for Europe with the news of this place.

A small English pinnace appeared off the sea-wall battery to-day, so our people fired five or six guns from our ships.

To-day I delivered to M. Duplant 600 Pondichery crescent pagodas on account of the 10,000 rupees. I have already paid him 4,000 rupees and these 600 pagodas are equal to 2,190—so that in all 6,190 rupees have been paid. I have made up this sum by melting at the mint articles of gold and silver from my house and by borrowing 3,000 rupees from China La Tour<sup>1</sup> for which I have had to give a bond for 4,000 rupees, and even about this he made difficulties. Besides there is the trouble for the pay of the 50 sepoy. Seeing that Chinna Mudali was dragged out in his cot, I must think myself fortunate in being asked mildly. God's will remains to be seen.

<sup>1</sup> I am not sure about the prefix. The text has 'Sinâ Lattâru' which perhaps is merely 'Senhor La Tour.'

The Choultry-writers broke into the houses in the Kaikkôlar and Chetti streets and carried away half or the whole quantity of paddy buried under-ground. When the list of houses in Mirâpalli was made, the occupied houses were left out, only the empty ones being entered, as was mere justice.

*Friday, May 30.*<sup>1</sup>—I heard the following news to-day :—

Five hundred or 600 of the English horse who were lying in ambush attacked our French troops encamped on the Perumbai hill, from seven to ten o'clock this morning. The Frenchmen retreated, but the sepoy fought bravely. Shaikh Dukki our sepoy commandant, his second, 20 or 30 sepoy, and three Europeans were wounded and 40 sepoy killed. Besides this 100 sepoy in their flight lost their guns, which were taken by the English. Then our troops retreated. When the English horse retired northwards, our Europeans fired a cannon which killed a horse, and its rider was taken by our Hussars.

I went to the Fort at nine o'clock this morning. M. Duplant did not appear and M. Courtin had gone to the Choultry-court. M. Leyrit was writing letters with his doors closed. M. Dubois came and went away after

<sup>1</sup> 21st Vaigâsi, Vikrama.