

CHAP.
XXX.
—
1746.

Diary
and his
brother
depart.

Letters
from MM.
de la Bour-
donnais and
d'Espré-
ménil.

Condition
on which
former
will arrange
not to
restore
Madras to
English.

Council sits,
and sends
emergent
despatch to
Madras.

Return of
Major
Avice with
reply to a
letter to
M. de la
Bourdon-
nais.

André has made a larger sum than that which you have mentioned." I replied: "If this is the case with the servant, you can guess how it would be with the master." He remarked: "What you say is right; now you may go home." My brother and I then took leave, and departed.

This evening, also, it was stormy, and cloudy.

This evening at 8, a letter from M. de la Bourdonnais, and another from M. d'Espréménil, arrived from Madras. That from M. de la Bourdonnais stated that Madras could not again be placed under the authority of the Governor of Pondichery, but that if he was given liberty to appoint a man to the post of Governor there, and if it could be arranged that it should be left under his own control, he would contrive not to restore Madras to the English. The Council was at once summoned, and sat until half-past 10 at night. A letter was prepared, and posted by 11, with orders that if it was not delivered at Madras on the following day, by 2 in the afternoon, each of the post peons should receive fifty stripes. The members of the Council then went to their suppers. About this time, Major Avice, who had come in command of the troops on board three men-of-war which were to join M. de la Bourdonnais, and who had conveyed a letter to him, returned after delivering it and obtaining a reply. This he put into the hands of the Governor, and having given him particulars regarding Madras, he went home at midnight.

I do not know the contents of the letter which he brought, or the decision of the Council, which sat until half-past 10 at night.

There would not have been much trouble if Madras had not been taken. The capture of that place has been an endless source of discord between M. de la Bourdonnais and M. Dupleix, and the annoyance experienced by the latter has been indescribable.

In my horoscope it is said that my evil time will last for $38\frac{1}{2}$ years. There is no doubt about it. If, when a town like Madras is sacked, and even the most ignorant officials have made money to the extent of 70, 80 and 100 [pagodas?], my brother, who went there as the chief amongst them, has not gained anything, and has even hesitated to purchase what was offered to him as prize, what doubt can there be that this is only due to our ill-luck.

[Saturday], 15th October 1746, or 2nd Arppisi of Akshaya.—* Major Avice who came from France in chief command of the soldiers on board the three vessels previously mentioned, and was sent to M. de la Bourdonnais at Madras, returned yesterday, at midnight. He delivered a letter to the Governor, and also communicated some news to him. What he said is not known.

This morning, the Council met, and did not break up until noon. I ate my cold rice at sunrise, went to

* This is a repetition, evidently through oversight, of the entry regarding this officer at the preceding page.

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Contents
of this
unknown
to diarist.
His
remarks as
to discord
created by
capture of
Madras.

And of his
ill-luck and
that of his
brother in
gaining
nothing by
it.

Return of
Major
Avice
from
Madras.

Council
sits.

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Diarist
visits MM.
de la
Touche and
Dubois.
And then
goes to
Governor's
house.A letter
from
Kandappan.This gives
an account
of dispute
with
certain
persons.

M. de la Touche, and had an interview with him. I then visited M. Dubois, had a talk with him, and reached the Governor's house by half-past 9. As he was engaged at Council, I proceeded to my arecanut store-house at 10, and seated myself there. Wandiwash Tiruvêngada Pillai then delivered to me a letter written on palmyra-leaf sent by Kandappan from Kârikâl. The contents of this were:—

“The working party which went to open the bar of the river to the west of the village of Vadakuvattam asked me for 17 pagodas alleged to be the expenses of the work. I replied: ‘You know that some time ago, when the Râjâ came with his horsemen, a rising took place, the place was plundered, and then from 1,000 to 2,000 men assembled and fought. Are we to pay these expenses also? Is it not right that you should defray them. What is it to us?’ They answered that the Governor had told them that in former days Wandiwash Tiruvêngada Pillai had taken upon himself charges of this nature. I observed that this man had been entrusted with some money on account of the affairs of the Company, but that my master had informed me that he would not bear these expenses. They told me that I must nevertheless pay them. I said that I knew nothing about it, and that I would write to my master on the subject, and I then went away.”

I took the letter to Wandiwash Tiruvêngada Pillai, and asked him to read it. as a reply was required. Having perused it, he said: “We never

Diarist
hands it to
W. Tiru-
vengada
Pillai.

paid a cash towards the expenses of the working party; what is it to us?” I at once had a reply to this effect written to Kandappan of Kârikâl, sealed and posted it. I sent away the peon Pichândi, who had brought the letter, and returned home at noon. When all this took place, there were present at the distillery-house Sêsha Aiyangâr, Gôpâlâkrishna Aiyân, Appâji, Nilakanta Nâyakkan, Tyâga Aiyân, and Venkatâchala Aiyân.

It will be remembered that on the 30th Purattâsi last (12th October), M. de la Bourdonnais wrote a letter to the Governor in which he said: “Please send your officers and Councillors. I will deliver the fort of Madras to you. I have cancelled the agreement whereby it was to be left in the possession of the English.” In consequence of this M. d'Espréménil, and others, returned to Madras. In another letter which he wrote on the following day, he stated that he had restored Madras to the English. Thereupon, the Council met, and as he had thus disgraced them, they sent him a reprimand. Before however this could reach him, he had, on the next day, forwarded another letter to the Governor saying: “I have neither restored Madras to the English, nor have I placed it under the control of the Council at Pondichery. I do not know what I shall finally do. I am as yet undecided.” This was the reason why, the day before yesterday, the Council sat until 10 at night, and an answer was hurriedly prepared at 11, and despatched with proper instructions to the runners.

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Who denies the
allegations which
it contains.
Reply to this effect
sent.Diarist
reverts to
the subject
of M. de la
Bourdon-
nais.Mentions
letter in
which he
stated that
he had
restored
Madras
to the
English.And that
sent before
reprimand
of Council
reached
him, in
which he
said that
he had
taken no
action.This
the reason
for the
recent
meeting of
Council.

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His
remark on
disgrace
arising
from
conduct
of M. de la
Bourdon-
nais.

The measure of the disgrace brought by M. de la Bourdonnais upon the Governor and his Councillors can hardly be adequately expressed. As an attempt to enlarge upon this point would be indiscreet on my part, I have recorded the important part only. Wise people will understand it.

Sunday, 16th October 1746, or 3rd Arppisi of Akshaya.—What I saw and heard this morning was this. As M. de la Bourdonnais had been appointed to the chief command of the three ships which came from Europe under M. Dordelin, and as the instructions to these were to obey his orders, the following letter was sent by him to M. Dordelin, and other captains of the ships, directing that after the 21st, and failing that date, the 25th October, none of them should remain in the roads at Pondichery. It appears that he wrote another letter on the next day, under the seal of the King, strictly enjoining on all the captains of the men-of-war, that none of them should remain near Pondichery beyond the given time; and that they should join him. Thereupon, M. Dordelin and all the other captains took the order of the Company furnished to them, and that which M. de la Bourdonnais had sent, and showed them to the Governor, M. Duplex. He directed them to go to the office of record with the order of M. de la Bourdonnais, and file their declarations there. This morning, at 9, they accordingly went to the office, made their declarations, signed the same, and returned to the Governor. He at once ordered the

M. de la
Bourdon-
nais orders,
that ships of
M. Dordelin
should not
remain
at Pondi-
chery.The
captains
take this,
and that
given by the
Company,
to the
Governor.Who
directs
them to
file their
declara-
tions in the
office of
record.

Councillors to be summoned. Half an Indian hour later, he directed that this was not to be done. Then he assembled M. Dordelin and the other captains, and held a conference with them. What they were discussing is not yet known but it will be hereafter.

One cannot understand what M. de la Bourdonnais means by writing one thing, one day, to the Council at Pondichery, and the next another, as if he was joking. Knowing as we do that there is generally concord and good understanding amongst Europeans, and that they never disagree, we cannot see what he means by saying at one time, that he has restored Madras, and at another that he has not, and thereby disgracing others. The ways of Europeans, who used always to act in union, have apparently now become like those of natives and Muhammadans. The procedure of M. de la Bourdonnais is quite inconsistent with what I have seen and heard up to now. I cannot understand what he means by changing his ground every half an Indian hour, that is, by saying at one time, that he has given Madras back to the English, at another, that he has cancelled the agreement, and by making differing statements of this kind.

The talk is that if this comes to be known in France, M. de la Bourdonnais will be hanged. All the Europeans say so. Only one or two persons who are biased in his favor, hold that if he goes to France, and spends money largely, all his misdeeds

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Governor
orders a
meeting of
Council
but counter-
mands it
and holds
one of the
captains.Reflections
on the
conduct of
M. de la
Bourdon-
nais.Diarist
unable to
account
for it.Talk that
if it
becomes
known in
France
he will be
hanged.

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Views
of the
Europeans
as to
reasons
why he
does so
much
mischief.Opinion of
d'Arville
as to his
chances of
escaping
punish-
ment.Two sailors
break
into the
mission
church.The police
peons
raise an
alarm.The thieves
then
pretend to
be drawing
water.

will be hushed up. Some Europeans allege that it is only with the certainty that by means of money he can get out of danger, that he is doing all this mischief. But as the Comptroller-General, M. Orry, and his younger brother, M. de Fulvy, the head of the Company, have lost their appointments, and as the present Comptroller-General, M. Machaut d'Arnouville, and the head of the Company, M. Roulier, are not men who would receive bribes, people say that M. de la Bourdonnais will find himself in a dangerous position. Judging matters from any point of view, it seems probable that he will get into difficulties. But what the will of God is, is not known.

Monday, 17th October 1746, or 4th Arppisi of Akshaya.—This morning, at six Indian hours before dawn, two sailors entered the mission church situated opposite to my house. Against the northern wall of the church there is a verandah, in which there is a petty bazaar. The sailors got upon the wall, and were attempting to break the reepers between rafters, and get in. As the court-house is situated just opposite to the bazaar, the peons who were going their rounds heard the noise of tiles and reepers being broken. As they were aware that thefts had been committed several times in this particular shop, they gathered together, and raised an alarm. On this, the sailors found it impossible to continue their attempt to steal, jumped into the enclosure of

the church, and caught hold of the piccota adjoining. The peons collected around the wall, and cried: 'What is the meaning of water being drawn at this hour? These are probably thieves.' Then one of the sailors jumped on to the lime kiln built to the south-east, outside the wall. The peons caught hold of him. Others of their fellows having heard the noise, joined them, and they all took the thief to the house of the chief of the peons, and placed him in confinement. By the time that they returned, the other thief, who was inside the wall, had climbed over it, and run away. The peons then lit torches and tarred brands, caused the church door to be opened, entered, and searched the building, but could not find the thief. In the possession of the sailor who was arrested were found a cloak belonging to the priest, a pair of stockings, a polished brass ball, and some sundry articles, the property of the priest. When the peons reported this to the priest, the latter searched his house, and said that it was true that these articles were missing. He added: "Yesterday afternoon, two sailors came, and asked my permission to see the church. I granted their request." The priest then told the men that the sailors entered the church, and examined it, and he also gave a description of them. As the sailor who had been arrested bore the marks mentioned, the chief of the peons said that this must be the man, and ordered the enclosure to be searched once more.

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Hearing
the police
they
attempt
flight
but one of
them is
arrested.The other
escapes.Articles the
property
of the
priest found
with the
man
captured.Statement
of the
priest
to the
police.