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The letter then refers to a settlement between K. Ni'amat-ullah Khan, and the Nizam.

And the reward given to the Diwan, for effecting this.

It also states that Seringapatam has been leased.

That the Nizam will make a tour to collect arrears.

Emperor waived his claim to the three crores of rupees due by the deceased.

“To turn to the affairs of Nizâm-ul-mulk and his followers : Khâjâ Ni'amat-ullâh Khân has effected a settlement with the Nizâm, through the instrumentality of Diwan Pûrnachand, who raised the rent gradually from 30 to 35, then to 40, and finally to 45 lakhs—some merchants undertaking to stand security for payment of the money. As regards the arrears, amounting to four lakhs, he is to pay two-thirds by the 10th of Saffeer, corresponding to 24th Mârgazhi [4th January] and the remainder as soon as the country is made over to him and he is presented with a dress of honour. As a reward for having negotiated this matter, the Nizâm invited Pûrnachand to his palace, had a private conversation with him for about two Indian hours, presented him with an elephant and howdah, and raised his salary by 2,000 rupees.

“Seringapatam was leased out for 70 lakhs of rupees. The Râjâ of Mysore was apprised of this, and informed that in default of payment of the amount, not only would it be collected by force, but the province would be laid waste in such manner as the Nizâm might think fit. A hundred horse-men were sent with the letter intimating this. Moreover, the Nizâm publicly announced at a full darbar, that he intended proceeding soon to Mysore, Sîrpi, and Tanjore, where there were large accumulations of arrears, in order to collect the same.

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And that the Nawab is therefore busy making up accounts, and collecting arrears

“Having heard that Mîr Nasim 'Alî Khân Bahâdur Asand Jang, the younger son of Nizâm-ul-mulk, was on his way to Balâdâ, Raghôji has started for Devakedai and Sândâ. A written communication to this effect was received by the Nizâm. In a letter of 14th Saffeer, [28th Mârgazhi or 8th January] received by Anwar-ud-din Khân, at Arcot, he was informed that the Nizâm, who had almost reached the Krishna, would cross it on Saffeer 15th [29th Mârgazhi or 9th January], on his way thither. The Nawâb is therefore busily engaged in bringing the accounts up to date, and is strict in recovering the outstanding arrears of taxes and other dues.”

Monday, 13th March 1747, or 3rd Panguni of Akshaya.—The following information was given by Vîrâ Nâyakkan, who accompanied our expedition:

“Since I wrote to you regarding the capture, on Sunday night, of the battery at Uppalvâdi, and the immediate evacuation by the enemy of the other three batteries, our force marched, at about 10, to Muttiyâlu Nâyakkan's garden and choultry. Leaving there, MM. Vincens and St. Martin, as well as the detachment under me, to guard the provisions, M. Paradis and the other officers advanced, with the soldiers and Mahésepoys, to the Company's garden at Manjakuppam, and occupied it; the few of the enemy's men who were holding it, having fled. It was nearly dawn before soldiers and peons could be detailed for the protection of the whole of the garden, and sentinels could be placed at the gate,

V. Nayakan tells diarist that the French occupied the garden at Manjakuppam.

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And
were about
to attack
Fort St.
David.

When the
English
fleet ap-
peared in
the offing.

That it was
thereupon
decided
that the
force should
return.

That the
supplies
were then
sent back to
Pondi-
chery.

That the
guns,
ammuni-
tion, etc.,
were
destroyed,
or rendered
useless.

and on the roof of the house. Soon after sunrise, MM. Vincens and St. Martin, who were in charge of the supplies, received a letter, and thereupon they and my men started for the garden and arrived at 8. The whole force was concentrated there. It was proposed to advance to Vannârpâlaiyam, and thence attack the fort. With this object, all the troops, including our soldiers, Coffres, and Mahé sepoys, were paraded at the eastern entrance to the garden, and were about to start, when the sentinel on the flat roof of the house descried, at a distance, seven ships making for the anchorage, and announced this. Thereupon, M. Paradis went up, and looked at them. He said that they carried the English flag, and he arrived at the conclusion that they belonged to that nation: The principal officers of the force, such as MM. Paradis, de la Tour, St. Jacques, St. Martin, Vincens, and Solminiac, then held a Council of war, at which it was decided that they should return, and not remain where they were, as the English were being reinforced, and Pondichery would be in a helpless condition should their ships proceed thither. Accordingly, at half-past 10, they ordered that the supplies should return to Pondichery under the escort of my party, protected in rear by two bronze guns and three or four field-pieces, which had to be dragged by hand. We were directed to march by the inner track, which runs to the east of Bâhtr. Owing to the lack of porters, all the chests of powder had to be thrown

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That this
was also
done at
the Horse-
tail battery.

That a
party of
pursuers
was re-
pulsed.

And that
the troops
finally
reached
Pondi-
chery.

into water; and the cannon were spiked, and similarly disposed of. Bags of rice were cut open, and the contents flung into wells. The casks of brandy were staved in, and the liquor allowed to flow away. The chairs, boxes, tables, and benches, and the houses in the garden were broken up, and destroyed. The ladders were burnt; and some of the buildings there were also set on fire. On our way back, we entered the Horse-tail battery, cut down the flagstaff, spiked the guns, cast them and the powder and cannon shot found there into the water, and set fire to the neighbouring huts. By the time that we had passed Marikrishnâpuram, 200 foot soldiers, and 50 horsemen, had been despatched in pursuit of us by the English at Fort St. David, who had received news of our retreat, and were close on our heels. On this, our men turned, and gave chase to them, with the result that they fled. In the course of this encounter, however, one of our baggage carriers was killed, and one of my peons, named Venkatâchalam, who followed him, was also seized, deprived of his musket and clothes, and barely managed to escape with his life. Another, a European who had drunk some spirits, and owing to thirst, had lagged behind was walking along close to a line of palmyra trees, when a party of the enemy's horsemen cut off his head, and carried it away. Our men then pursued, and having driven them back as far as the river, returned. From Marikrishnâpuram, the force

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came, without a halt, to Ariyânkuppam, and thence, on receipt of instructions from the Governor, returned to Pondichery, at 7, in the evening.

Two
English
ships
appear off
the ancho-
rage.

Another noteworthy occurrence to-day was that at 1, this afternoon, two ships from Fort St. David were sighted, under sail, off the anchorage at Pondichery. The Government officials, including the members of Council and other great folk, at once girded up their loins, loaded the guns, and stood ready with lighted portfires. The ramparts, and all the batteries on the sea-shore, were fully manned by them. The Governor, too, set out with great promptitude, and ascending the rampart near the custom-house, walked to and fro, between the northern and southern batteries. However, after approaching the shore, the ships stood off to the north, and disappeared. The Europeans on the ramparts then descended. It was said that the people of Fort St. David, having heard that the English ship taken at Madras, and the *Neptune*, were on their way to Pondichery, laden with goods, must have despatched the two vessels with the view of capturing these. As soon as the English ships were sighted, a Council was held, and a letter, addressed to Madras, was despatched by a catamaran; a native captain being entrusted with it for delivery there.

Prepa-
rations
made to
resist
them.

They,
however,
stand off
again.

Apparently
sent to
capture
two French
ships.

Diariet's
remarks
as to the
cause of the
failure of the
expedi-
tion.

If the English fleet had arrived but two days later, the French, who had advanced well equipped, and with great energy, would undoubtedly have captured Fort St. David, and have hoisted their white

flag on it. But as it is fated that the English shall fly their standard there for a while longer, a fleet appears to avert the impending catastrophe, just at the very time that the outlying fortifications have fallen, and the citadel itself is about to be captured. It is thus clear that man's efforts, however great, and his sagacity, however keen, cannot alter the course ordained by God, whose decrees will be carried out.

This evening, intelligence was received from Madras, to the following effect. Three days ago, on Saturday, the *Neptune*, and the English ship that was captured there, set sail for Pondichery. When they were off Covelong, they were obliged to anchor in the roads, as the wind was not in their favour. Seeing the ships lying there, a craft sailing northwards from the south informed them, but in jest, that five or six vessels, with the English flag flying, were at anchor off Fort St. David. They, however, took this in earnest, and getting under weigh, promptly returned to Madras. As it was the lucky time of the French, even false information proved of advantage. Chances, at times, turn out profitably for the fortunate. One may rest assured that such things happen in accordance with the decrees of God, and not as man proposes.

Tuesday, 14th March 1747, or 4th Panguni of Akshaya.—The Poligar of Vêttavalam, who had been desired to send a contingent, supplied one composed of 200 matchlockmen, twenty bullet makers, and

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Good
luck of
two French
ships, on
their
way to
Pondi-
chery.

Remarks of
diarist on
this matter.

The force
sent by the
Poligar of
Vetta-
valam.

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He pro-
mises more
men.

ten pikemen, who were led by four mounted men. This arrived at 5 this evening, bringing a letter from him, to the effect that 200 men were now being sent, and that the remaining 300 would follow, in charge of Virarâghava Aiyan. Having read this, I ordered these 200 men, and the 245 belonging to Âlattâr Venkatâchala Nâyakkan, to draw up in two ranks before the Governor's house, and salute him. When they went there, it was found that he had gone for a drive in a northerly direction

His contin-
gent, and
another,
parade
before the
Governor.

* They were consequently instructed to proceed to the Chettî street, by which he was expected to return, and to stand in a row on either side of the road. When the Governor saw them, he asked me who they were. I explained everything to him, and he then requested me to provide them with lodging, and to give each a fanam a day, as batta, until their pay was fixed. He further said that he would tell me, on the morrow, what present should be made to their master. I then sent them away, with instructions that they should be accommodated in my garden, outside the town gate, whither they repaired at 7.

Who gives
diarist
instruc-
tions
regarding
them.

An English
ship
sighted.

This evening, a ship, displaying the English flag, was sighted out at sea, to the southward. She anchored off Virâmpattanam.

Diarist
sends spies
to Fort St.
David.

To-day, I sent out six Brâhman spies, in view to ascertain the news at Fort St. David, and paid them Rs. 20. The Governor had desired that

* Blank in the original.

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Governor
bewails
to diarist
the failure
caused by
the arrival
of the Eng-
lish fleet.

he should, every now and then, be informed of the intelligence received, and had requested me to depute suitable, and at the same time intelligent men, for the purpose of obtaining it. When conversing with me, he exclaimed: "Look you now, Rangappâ, what efforts we made, and how the operations were conducted. We had captured all the batteries, and the fort itself was about to fall into our hands; but, at that moment, their ships appeared. Had there been a delay of only two or three days in their arrival, the fort would have been taken with the utmost ease, the white flag would have been hoisted on it, and by that means I should have acquired great repute. All this has gone now, and my exertions have proved fruitless. Look at this." When, being unable to control his feelings, he said this, I replied: "You will not fail to gain the object on which you have set your heart. If the fort does not now fall into your hands, it will certainly, do so, two months hence. As regards this, there can be no doubt. But what grieves me is that, owing to the arrival of the ships now, all the goods in Fort St. David will be put on board them, and carried away. If, on the other hand, the fort had been captured before they appeared on the scene, we could have taken possession of them. We have missed that chance, and it is this circumstance, alone, that afflicts me. I cannot say that I am sorry for the failure to capture the fort; for, sooner or later, it is certain to fall into our hands. There is no question about that. If you desire,

Diarist
replies that
the capture
of Fort St.
David is
merely
deferred.

And that
he only
regrets the
probable
removal of
the goods
stored
there.

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He foretells
the fall of
the fort, at
an early
date.

The Govern-
or twits
him with
the failure
of his pre-
dictions.

He retorts
that he
often
advised
an attack
on Fort St.
David.

And, parti-
cularly,
when the
fleet was
available.

Governor
apparently
mollified.

I will make a statement to that effect, in writing. As it is decreed that it should be held by the English for a short time longer, the attempts which we have twice or thrice made, have failed. This, however, is of but small moment. When the month of May begins, not only shall we gain possession of the fort, but several circumstances will eventuate in our favour. That is certain. You need not bestow any thought on the matter." To this the Governor made answer: "This all very well. There is no doubt that what you say usually comes to pass, but, in this particular instance, your prediction has failed." I replied: "As soon as Madras was captured, I advised you that Fort St. David, also, should be seized, and said that it was a snake at the head of our bed, which must not be allowed to remain. I submitted to you, then and there, that, if you would but try, you could effect this with no trouble of any sort. I repeated this several times, although you paid no heed to my words. Again, when I urged that whilst our ships were still here, an attempt should be made in that direction, you remarked: 'Is it necessary to have the help of the fleet to take that fort,' and you sent it away to Anjengo and Tellichery. Any way, let the present and coming months pass; you will gain the place." When I had said all this, he was somewhat appeased, and remarked that what I said was true. He talked, for a long while, on the subject. My replies to him were, throughout, couched in such soothing

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Diarist
tells the
Governor
the predic-
tion of an
astrologer.

At which,
he laughed.

words as were likely to dispel the gloom overshadowing his thoughts. I took leave of him, saying that Heaven would favour him as I had predicted, and retired to my areca-nut godown. In the course of the conversation between us, I said another thing which I may mention. It was as follows: "After April, your affairs will prosper, day by day, and you will receive from the King a title of nobility, and a badge of honour. He asked how I knew this. I replied that a Bráhma astrologer had foretold that this would happen after April, and before the expiry of May. On hearing this the Governor laughed, and retired indoors.