

paddy for the soldiers and sepoys defending the town, and for the coolies, instead of offering their paddy, they moved and hid it, as though sure that the English would conquer; and moreover they sold it secretly at a high price. When the oil-pressers' bullocks were seized for the soldiers' food, they cried aloud and complained to me. Why did they act so?' He further abused the Tamils; and added, 'The Tamils thought that the English would take Pondichery, and hoped to be able to cheat both the Company and the Europeans.' M. Cornet, who has no sense of justice, said to me, 'The Governor's words are true. What virtue have they shown?'—I said, 'I will tell you if you will hear me without anger.'—'Speak freely,' he said. So I went on, 'The Governor's words are true—that neither Tamils nor Muhammadans helped in the siege. But neither did the Europeans. What help did the Governor need? God, the Protector of the Universe, helped him, and he helped the rest. God created Monsieur Duplex to protect the people of this town and those who dwell even at Arcot; so how can you say he needs the help of any? Besides, tell me what help the Europeans brought? There must have been 250 or 300 garse of paddy in the European quarter. The Tamils at all events gave some of the paddy which they had concealed. No other people were so serviceable. In the last two months, when the town was attacked by the English, and all abandoned

it, the Tamils supplied five garse a day—300 garse of paddy. Besides this, they gave 24 garse to the Company and the Governor. Moreover they allowed others at their request to come and live in their houses, while they themselves went elsewhere. Again, the Tamils' coconut-trees were cut down, but not one belonging to the European soldiers.¹ They are even willing to give up the houses of which a list is now being made. Will Europeans or Muhammadans do as much? None are so generous as the Tamils.' The Governor laughed when I quietly said this, and observed to M. Cornet that, when the Europeans were asked, they did not do so. I said, 'Surely the Governor does not mean only giving what is asked for; real charity consists in giving unasked. That is what the Tamils have done; they have not been lacking.' The Governor felt my words somewhat.

He then asked when the merchants would come to settle their accounts. I said they would come in ten days; and he told M. Cornet to settle the accounts as soon as they came. M. Cornet then said

¹ It was not unusual for soldiers to possess gardens of coconut trees, etc. In the *Fort St. David Consultations*, March 31, 1741, occurs a petition from a number of soldiers whose trees had been cut down in apprehension of a Maratha attack. 'Your petitioners humbly beseech your worship, etc. . . . to consider . . . the loss they are likely to sustain by having their trees cut down, the produce of which and the Company's pay have maintained your poor petitioners' families all this time, and now . . . Your petitioners have no other dependance but only their bare pay . . . Compensation up to 1,000 pogodas was granted, to prevent discontent in the garrison. This was perhaps the motive for not cutting down the soldiers' trees at Pondichery.

that some coarse blue-cloth, etc., had been brought in. I said, 'About eighty yards of double-yarn cloth is ready, the Company's merchants have about 120 corgé of coarse Pondichery cloth, and I have some coarse blue-cloth. The unbleached Udaiyârpâlaiyam long-cloths are being collected. When these have all been brought in, they may be entered in the merchants' accounts and receipts granted.'

I stood aside after saying this, and the Governor told me to get twenty draught-bullocks. I said I would do so. But he said, 'You say "yes", but you will take a month to get them. Have the Muhammadans' bullocks been taken?' I replied, 'Mîr Ghulâm Husain's bullocks have already been taken; and the Muhammadans have no more.' On this M. Cornet said, 'This proves what the Tamils are. They feared the English would take Pondichery; so they sent their bullocks away. Tamils are cowards.'—I answered, 'Sir, I may say that the Tamils are braver than you allege. Many kept their goods at home in confidence that the English would never take Pondichery, and those who fled were beaten and plundered. But the Europeans, expecting the English to take the outer fortifications, carried their goods into the Fort, and even changed rupees into pagodas at the rate of 360 the 100 pagodas. Moreover, lest the Fort should also be taken, they sought out brokers in order to procure bills of exchange. They so feared the enemy's fire

that all the coconut-trees in the town were cut down and laid on their house-tops with leaves, earth and cotton, to make them as safe as possible.¹ The Tamils ask what European except the Governor ventured out of doors; but the Tamils themselves did, and dwelt in houses covered only with flat tiles, putting their trust in God. Some even remained in Mîrâpalli.' When I thus contrasted the fear of the Europeans and the boldness of the Tamils, the Governor asked what had become of Kommanan who went out with M. Dulaurens' property. I said I did not know. 'But why do you hide it?' he asked; 'tell me freely.' M. Cornet also said it would look ill if I concealed my knowledge. I answered, 'How do I know whither the English people drove those who left this town, and where they lost their goods? How can I know where he is? But all knew of his going.' The Governor thinks that there is nothing under heaven I don't know; so he told M. Cornet that I knew not only where Kommanan was, but also where the townspeople were and even the inhabitants of the out-villages, adding, 'How can a Frenchman like M. Dulaurens suppose the English would capture the town, and send his wealth out with his writer? I have got him; he is helpless!' Thus saying, he went in. I then said to M. Cornet, 'How can I know anything about Kommana Mudali or the rest

¹ This was done as a protection against shells.