

*Tuesday, February 10.*¹—As 19 bales of my coarse blue-cloth and the Yânâm cloth were to be sorted and packed, I stayed at the Fort till twelve o'clock. I and the Second then went to the Governor and informed him that 36 bales had been made up.

He then said, 'Mîr A'azam Sâhib, who has come from Nawâb Chandâ Sâhib's camp, says that he has secret news to deliver, as the letter has already stated. As it is now noon, I must dine; but wait till I have finished, and then I will hear the news. You can go and eat afterwards.' I went to him at half-past seven [*sic*] when he had finished; and I now write what Mîr A'azam said and what the Governor replied.

Mîr A'azam said that he had been told by Chandâ Sâhib to report to the Governor as follows:—'Formerly I did not seize the fort of Tanjore in consideration of Sâhu Râjâ, but made an agreement that the affair should be settled for 70 lakhs, that territory should be mortgaged for 40 lakhs and that 30 lakhs should be paid in ready money, of which 15 lakhs should be paid down at once and the remainder after the army had reached a certain place. Up to now articles of gold and silver and jewels set with precious stones, worth about 7 lakhs of rupees, have been delivered and the balance has still to be paid. But as Sâhu Râjâ is now dead, I

¹ 2nd Mâsi, Sukla.

have raised batteries in order to capture the Fort.¹ Please write to M. Goupil, the Commander of your army, and to Muzaffar Khân and Shaikh Hasan, jemadars of the sepoy, that their people must not plunder the fort when it is captured.' The Governor replied, 'I will write as you desire; but the Marathas are strong, and may think that Chandâ Sâhib has broken his agreement in seizing the fort of Tanjore after Sâhu Râjâ's death, as though he had inherited his power. The great men and wazirs, Sau Bhâji Râo, Raghôji Bhônsla, Fattedh Singh, Sripati Râo, etc., may grow angry, supposing that he considers the Maratha kingdom ended by Sâhu Râjâ's death, and so, forgetting their former friendship for him, may make friends with Nâsir Jang to attack him. Considering the present state of affairs, he needs their friendship. So before taking the fort, he must consider the future and avoid the evils that may happen. But if it be thought that these dangers are unreal, and that the fort should be captured, he has my good wishes. I am also for seizing the fort. I will write to M. Goupil, the Commander of the French troops, and to Muzaffar Khân and Shaikh Hasan, the jemadars of the sepoy, not to plunder the fort but make an agreement to receive so many lakhs of rupees as a present for its capture, on which condition they

¹ Report credited Chandâ Sâhib with the design of establishing his son as Nawâb of Tanjore. Le Riche to Dupleix, February 10, 1750 (P.B. No. 84, f. 201).

should plunder nothing but obey Chandâ Sâhib's orders. If they take the fort by storm, they will surely plunder and set all agreements at defiance. The Europeans might perhaps refrain, but Muzaffar Khân's sepoy, though they were promised a lakh of rupees each, could not be kept from plunder. But, if, as happened at Madras, the enemy come to terms before the walls are scaled, and surrender the fort, and if Chandâ Sâhib and his people alone enter, leaving the others outside, then there may be no plunder. Otherwise it is sure to be pillaged.¹ This is what was said about Tanjore.

Mîr A'azam then continued, 'Murtazâ 'Alî Khân of Vellore is a firebrand in these parts, in spite of his being Chandâ Sâhib's brother-in-law. He killed Safdar 'Alî Khân, thus breaking up the Navâits; and in spite of all the kindness shown him after Chandâ Sâhib's coming, he is still the same mischief-maker as before. It is intended to send Razâ Sâhib with an army against him; and so Chandâ Sâhib desires you to send mortars, cannon, etc., to capture the fort.' The Governor replied, 'Murtazâ 'Alî Khân is indeed an evil man, and his fort should be captured. It will not take long to get possession of Vellore. It will surrender as soon as it is besieged. But for the moment, it is enough to settle the Tanjore and Trichinopoly affairs. It is not wise

¹ Presumably this was why Chandâ Sâhib prevented Goupil from attacking Tanjore on the evening of February 19. Le Riche to Duplex, February 24, 1750 (P.R. No. 84, f. 205).

to send a few troops here and a few there. But if he indeed desires its capture, he has my good wishes. Mortars, cannon, etc., are ready; only bullocks and carts are needed for their transport.'

Thirdly Mîr A'azam said, 'As Muzaffar Jang and Chandâ Sâhib will march to attack Nâsir Jang, they wish to send their families into Pondichery. I am ordered to ask you to provide a house for Muzaffar Jang's wife; as there is still the house in which Chandâ Sâhib's family formerly lived, no other house need be provided for them.' The Governor replied, 'I will certainly do this. A house is ready for Muzaffar Jang's family, so write that they are welcome to come whenever they please.'

Fourthly Mîr A'azam said, 'I have been asked to tell you that the Pâdshâh's vakîl has written that his parwâna will be sent to you in a short time.' The Governor answered, 'That will add to my strength; it should be procured quickly.'

Fifthly Mîr A'azam said, 'It is written that the Pâdshâh's uncle and a wazir have marched with a large army to capture Nâsir Jang.' The Governor replied, 'Write that I am rejoiced to hear this. May such glad news come daily.'

Sixthly Mîr A'azam said, 'Instead of writing that there was news that Amânat Khân (Mubariz Khân's son) was marching against Nâsir Jang, Muzaffar Khân has written the opposite.' The Governor said, 'Reply that, henceforth, Chandâ Sâhib

should write about all things without informing Muzaffar Khân.'

Seventhly Mîr A'azam said, 'I have been ordered to tell you that a letter should be written to the Company by the Europe ships saying that 3,000 Europeans and 2,000 Coffrees are needed and that Chandâ Sâhib will pay them so long as he remains Nawâb.' The Governor said, 'Tell Chandâ Sâhib to write asking me to apply to the Company in Europe for 3,000 soldiers and 2,000 Coffrees and promising, if they are sent, to maintain them so long as he is Nawâb.' He agreed to do so.

Eighthly Mîr A'azam said, 'I have been ordered to ask you for 1,000 muskets, cartridges, red-lead, etc.' The Governor replied, 'Write that I will supply the four or five hundred sepoy who are coming with muskets, bayonets, cartridges, etc. I cannot do more.'

Ninthly Mîr A'azam said, 'When we were here before, the carpets you offered us were refused; but the carpets spread in the tents during the Tanjore war have been eaten by white ants. Please furnish us from the Company's warehouses with all the carpets, large or small, that are available.' The Governor answered, 'Write that I will send them by boat to Kârikâl with orders to send them up to camp, where they will be received.' He sent for M. Cornet and ordered him to have them sent.

Tenthly, the Governor said that a letter had come last night from 'Alî Naqî Sâhib saying that diwân

Morô Pandit and Khâzi Ahmad¹ had set out from his² camp at Mathugiri near Pëddapallâpuram and were marching with 1,000 horsemen to Trichinopoly, to offer terms to Muzaffar Jang. He asked Mîr A'azam if it was true. He replied, 'It is so; messengers reported this when I was setting out for Pondichery.' The Governor replied, 'Write to Chandâ Sâhib and Muzaffar Jang that they owe their power to me, that we are as three heads under one hat, that we shall come to naught if one of us be destroyed; no agreement therefore should be made with Nâsir Jang without my consent; Morô Pandit and Khâzi Ahmad should be shown all respect when they arrive, but, when they begin to talk about peace, it should be answered that, though we have three bodies, our life is one, that peace cannot be made without me, and that if the matter is to be settled satisfactorily, they must come here.' Mîr A'azam said that he would do so and the Governor added that he also would write to the same effect.

Eleventhly Mîr A'azam said, 'I am ordered to tell you that soldiers are confidently reported to have arrived on board the ships; if some be sent, men will say that you have sent 4,000, so our enemies' hearts will burst with fear.' The Governor replied, 'Write that only a few soldiers have arrived, and if I send any from here, the attack on Vellore must be put off.'

¹ This man is subsequently called Khâzi Dâyem. ² I.e., Nâsir Jang's.

Twelfthly Mîr A'azam said that Chandâ Sâhib needed broadcloth and serge. The Governor said he could give serge but no broadcloth. Mîr A'azam continued, 'His Highness Chandâ Sâhib and his son, Razâ Sâhib, have ordered me to say that they cannot thank you sufficiently for your protection and your re-establishing the fallen Navâits. You have delivered over to the Company the 36 villages of Bâhûr, the 46 villages of Villianallûr and the 81 villages including Tirunallâr, etc., added as an inam to Kârikâl. Moreover the five or six lakhs of ready money bestowed have been absorbed by the officers and the soldiers, so that you have gained nothing. If more lands were given, you would again hand them over to the Company, so I am charged to tell you that you shall be gratified by large sums given secretly out of the money procured from Tanjore.' The Governor said, 'All that is true. Whatever they may offer me now in money is mine. Say they may do as they please.'

*Sunday, February 15.*¹—I heard this morning that the *Prince* and *Thévenepatam*² which sailed for Europe and Mascareigne respectively at four o'clock this morning were still in sight at seven o'clock this morning on account of unfavourable winds, but afterwards disappeared.

¹ 7th Mâsi, Sukla.

² From her name she must have been a small country-boat. She is occasionally mentioned in the correspondence of Dupleix.

As the Governor sat up very late last night, he slept till nine o'clock this morning, and then went to church to hear mass. As soon as he had returned and taken his coffee, I reported to him as follows the contents of the letter from 'Alî Naqî Sâhib (son of Chandâ Sâhib's sister-in-law):— 'When Nâsîr Jang reached Sîrpi, he sent his dîwân Morô Pandit and Khâzi Dâyem with other great men to offer terms. Before they reached Tanjore and other places, Chandâ Sâhib had already sent Mîr A'azam to you with a letter requesting soldiers and Coffrees with provisions to be sent. Please send provisions as requested. I suppose that Morô Pandit, etc., have arrived and are treating for peace.' When I reported this, he told me to reply that he had already written to Chandâ Sâhib and should act accordingly.

I then reported the contents of the letter from Qâdir Sâhib Dâyâ, the Killedar of Gingee:— 'It will be well if 100 Europeans are appointed to guard Gingee fort so long as Nâsîr Jang is in these parts. There is no danger if they have powder, shot, shell, mortars, etc. So please send them.' He replied, 'Write that I will do so when I have heard from Chandâ Sâhib. Also write to Chandâ Sâhib asking if the things should be sent to the Killedar of Gingee as he requests.' I wrote three letters accordingly and had them despatched.

He sent for me again and said, 'Along with the Europe letters brought from Surat by messengers