

yet they are still afraid. How can such men think of ruling countries? They should not attempt more than they are fit for. They can seize the whole produce without giving the cultivators their share, plunder their cattle, property and everything, suck their heart's blood, by demanding twice over, contrary to the terms of their lease, rent already paid, and thus plague them all. They can also throw away their swords at sight of the enemy and take shelter in a village or among trees to preserve their lives, though they lose all else. They can only do such things as these. If a man trusts these dogs, and acts with them, he will lose all sense of shame and bring dishonour upon himself.'

When he was thus abusing them he heard the report of many guns and asked what that could be. I replied that it must be our people firing against the Marathas, and added, 'This is the harvest season; but the enemy's march has destroyed the whole country. Paddy, houses, straw, etc., have been burnt wherever to be found. They have wasted the country by grazing their horses in the fields and trampling, even burning everything to the ground. So the Tanjore country has been utterly wasted by the marching of our army, and these parts by our own people and the Marathas. It will take four or five years for the country to recover its former prosperity.' To all this, he replied that I was right, and we discussed it for about two hours.

M. Saint-Georges, who was sent to the Tiruviti fort, has written twice or thrice that the English have sent 500 Europeans, 500 sepoy and 4 guns to assist Morâri Râo. The Governor said, 'There are not more than 200 or 250 soldiers in Fort St. David; how then can they have sent out 500 or 1,000? The news must be false.' A week ago, an officer, Saint-Régard [?], set out for Gingee with 500 soldiers, 12 troopers and 100 foot sepoy, with 3,000 pagodas, and we have not yet heard of their arrival.' I replied that we should hear to-morrow or the day after that they had arrived safely.

He then asked the news from Villupuram. I replied, 'I hear that our people there have gained a victory; we shall get reliable news soon.' As I said this, a messenger brought a letter from Villupuram about the victory to this effect:—When our people arrived, they found English Topasses and peons holding Villupuram fort, on behalf of 'Abd-ul-jalîl; they resisted for a short time but fled when ten or twelve of them had fallen. Then our people occupied the fort.' He ordered the messenger who brought this news to be given two rupees as a present; and at once wrote a reply ordering them

¹ The news was premature. The English did not join Nâsir Jang with a considerable body of men till the end of the month. But it is curious to find Dupleix repeating this petulant outburst in a letter to the Company of October 3, 1750 (*Archives des Colonies*), when he had had ample time to learn the truth. But an irresistible tendency to undervalue his enemies was one of the principal defects of his mind and materially contributed to his ruin.