

Salabat Jang wrote to them asking why they had joined Muhammad 'Alî Khân to create disturbances and threatening them with punishment unless they desisted. But when this letter was read, it was torn in pieces and trampled under foot, and the messengers were first imprisoned and then driven away. The news from Salabat Jang's camp is that the money left in the treasury by Nizâm Nâsîr Jang has been spent, the revenue that has been collected has not been brought in, the expenses are heavy, and part of the Nizâm's treasure belongs to Nâsîr Jang's wife and sons. The Pâdshâh has grown feeble and his authority decreases every day; Ghâzi-ud-dîn Khân has been writing to many that Salabat Jang should not be recognized as subahdar of the Deccan, as he has joined men who would betray their own brother, and as he himself had done the like; that therefore if he were overthrown and the Deccan subahs seized, the Pâdshâh would send a parwâna of confirmation. So the money in the several treasuries is not sent to him; various killedars do not pay their peshkash, and money is so scarce that the sepoys and the Europeans are giving trouble on account of their arrears. When they attacked Sau Bhâji Râo, Râjâ Chandrasênan's son refused to march against him. In consequence Salabat Jang tried to seize and imprison Râmachandra Râo; but he

learnt of this and made ready to defend himself, until mediators persuaded them not to ruin everything by their quarrels; but even so each hates the other, though outwardly they are reconciled. Moreover when peace was made with Bhâji Râo, Salabat Jang promised to repay the 40 or 50 lakhs he had formerly obtained, but he has not paid a single cowrie. If he remains there [Aurangabad], he may be required to march to Delhi to help the Pâdshâh against the Pathans, nor could he resist an attack from Bhâji Râo as before. As he has no money for his expenses, he will spend the rains at Golconda, marching by way of Pâlaki (south of Aurangabad and 10 leagues north of Golconda) which with its jaghir belongs to Râmachandra Râo, son of Râjâ Chandrasên. He will halt there, come to an agreement with Râmachandra Râo, and then march to Golconda. The Pathans have murdered Mîr Munû¹ (Qamar-ud-dîn Khân's son) at Delhi and their atrocities are indescribable. Men at Delhi say that the throne which till now has been held by the Moghuls, will soon be occupied by the Pathans. Delhi, etc., are in such confusion that something is sure to happen. Till now the Moghuls have exercised authority, but henceforth the Pathans will

¹ According to Grant Duff Mîr Munû did not die until 1758.

take their place, or the Râjâs of Hindustan, the Rânâ of Udaipur, etc., may become the masters.' When Âchâram had related all this, he said that he would come back to-morrow, and went away.

The Governor sent for me this afternoon and said that M. d'Auteuil had written from camp at Ûtatûr that the Marathas had departed, owing to some disagreement with the Mysoreans and Muhammad 'Alî Khân.

He also said that the two ships which had sailed from Bengal for Jeddah had lost their passage and put in here, and desired me to find a buyer for the rice, sugar, etc., on board and obtain 100 garce of salt for them. I agreed.

*Sunday, May 14.*¹—I heard the following news to-day:—As Muhammad 'Alî Khân's troops, the English and the Mysoreans intended to attack M. d'Auteuil at Ûtatûr, the latter has retired to Vâlikondâpuram with Shaikh Muhammad Sharîf and other sardârs, the troops and his treasure, considering that he could not resist them. M. Law, Chandâ Sâhib, etc., at Srîrangam with their troops are suffering much for want of food and money. As the money sent from here has not reached them, the troops have to live on what they can find. Moreover the sepoy and troopers have not

¹ 5th Vaigâsi, Ângîrasa.

received a cash for the last three months; so many have deserted to the enemy. Thus Chandâ Sâhib's army has grown weaker and the enemy's stronger. As the troops are in the Srîrangam temple with the Cauvery and the Coleroon on either side full of water, they are living on the grain in the temple. Shaikh Hasan's troops who were at Kôyiladi, have been driven out, and the English troops have occupied it. 300 or 400 of the troops there have joined the enemy, and others have resolved to obtain cowles and return with their arms to Pondichery.

I went to the Governor and told him that cloth would be sorted to-morrow, and that as the painted cloth, lampasses, chintz, etc., at Madras had not been released it had been necessary to promise a bribe of 1,000 pagodas which after great difficulty had been accepted. After reporting this, I went to the office.

*Monday, May 15.*¹—As I have lost my diary-papers from the 7th to the 15th I have written nothing; but I will do so if I find them.

This morning the Governor sent for me and Madanânda Pandit, and asked me to interpret while Madanânda Pandit read Salabat Jang's letter. I interpreted it as follows:—'I have read your letter and understand its contents. A certain jemadar here has murdered

¹ 6th Vaigâsi, Ângîrasa.

Râjâ Raghunâtha Dâs¹ because he had not received his pay. Such was his fate, for who can resist God's decrees? You protected me while he lived, and must protect me now that he is dead. You will learn the rest from M. Bussy's letter. Please order him and Shaikh Ibrâhîm to guard me night and day. All that I have is yours.'

When I reported the letter to be thus written with compliments, the Governor told me to write a reply as follows:— 'I have received your letter and grieve at what has befallen Râjâ Raghunâtha Dâs. But it was the will of God that he should perish by the sword; who could prevent it? The past is irrevocable. I have written to M. Bussy about what should be done. If you do as he says, all your affairs will prosper. Reflect that his advice is always just, remember it and obey it. I have written to him to guard your person and dignity; he will do this night and day. You will be constantly in my mind.'

I directed Madanânda Pandit to write out this letter according to the Governor's orders.

I was also ordered, to write to 'Abd-ul-bâqar Khân Sâhib, who is to be Dîwân in place of Râjâ Raghunâtha Dâs as follows:—

¹ *i.e.*, the Râmadâs Pandit, who had taken a considerable part in the plot by which Nâsir Jang had been overthrown. He was murdered, according to Grant Duff, on April 7 (*History of the Marathas*, Vol. II, pp. 51, etc., ed. 1912).

'I have heard of your fidelity, nobleness and greatness. M. Bussy's letter lately received has increased my love towards you, and induced me to appoint you dîwân in place of Râjâ Raghunâtha Dâs. So long as you are dîwân, you must bear two things in mind; one is to labour with a single heart in Salabat Jang's affairs, and the other is to be our man and manage our affairs with all fidelity. If you will observe these, and behave well, you need fear nothing under our protection, and your authority will be maintained. You know how Râjâ Raghunâtha Dâs managed our affairs. I have written about other secret matters to M. Bussy who will inform you of them. If you will act properly, you and Salabat Jang will prosper.'¹ I told Madanânda Pandit to write a letter accordingly.

I was then ordered to write to Shaikh Ibrâhîm as follows:— 'I have received your letter and am greatly grieved by the evil fate of Râjâ Raghunâtha Dâs. But what can we do, since that was the will of God? Guard Salabat Jang day and night and do whatever M. Bussy writes to you. Do not disobey him

¹ This letter is a curious illustration of the part the French played in the Deccan, exactly similar to that of the English in Bengal between 1757 and 1760. I suppose 'Abd-ul-bâqar Khân must be identified with Saiyid Lashkar Khân, who was in fact appointed at once. See below p. 105; but I have not found the Khân's name mentioned, either in Elliot or in the *Siyâr-ul-mutâkherin*.

even in the merest trifle.' I told Madanânda Pandit to write accordingly, and then went to the office.

When Madanânda Pandit reported that he had written the letters, the Governor sent for me and told me to let the Pandit read it to me. When he had done so, I repeated it to the Governor in Portuguese in accordance with what is written above. The Governor was satisfied and told me to put it in an envelope, seal it and give it to M. Bertrand.

Madanânda Pandit then asked leave to depart in order to be present at the tying of the *tâli* for his daughter at noon. The Governor gave him leave, and asked me if I also must attend the marriage. I said I should, and he gave me leave. So I first went to the office, and then at noon attended the *tâli* tying of Madanânda Pandit's second daughter and Rangô Pandit's son who is marrying a second time. In the marriage pandal, about 200 rupees were collected for the marriage of a Vaishnava Brâhman, a bachelor, and given to him. After witnessing the tying of the *tâli* I came home.

*Tuesday, May 30.*¹—I was unwell to-day, so I did not go out.

At eleven o'clock, the Governor sent for me to come with the new merchants; I sent

¹ 21st Vaigâsi, Ângirasa.

a message that I was too unwell but would go to-morrow.

To-day I heard the following news:—Of the troops at Srîrangam with Chandâ Sâhib, M. Law, etc., only 300 troopers have received any pay for the last six months; the rest have had no money to live on and have suffered much by the enemy's blockade. 4,000 or 5,000 musket people, 300 horsemen, merchants, etc., have therefore departed. They intended to have destroyed the Srîrangam temple just as they destroyed the Jambukêswaram temple; but the temple-people saved it for the present by giving them 60,000 rupees and the grain stored there. No one knows what will be done. They have paddy and rice for a month, but cannot get salt or other provisions. The Cauvery and the Coleroon are full of water. The English, Marathas, and Mysoreans are in readiness all round them, at Samayavaram and Kôyiladi, etc.; and allow none to pass with provisions. M. d'Auteuil who retreated from Ūtatûr to Ranjangudi, has halted there.

JUNE 1752.

*Tuesday, June 6.*¹—When I went to the Governor this morning, he was busy with M. Albert and Madame, answering the European letters that came yesterday, and writing some Persian letters. After reporting the news, I went to my private office.

There is news that the Pathans (who attacked Delhi, captured the fort of Lahore, and murdered Mîr Munû) having plundered Lahore of all they could find, have restored it to the old Killedar and returned home owing to the approach of the rains. The Hindustani Râjâs near Delhi have assembled together, and collected a lakh of horse, in order to support a boy of Alamgîr Pâdshâh's family, and sent a vakîl, with 12,000 horse, to Ahmad Shâh Pâdshâh with the following message:—'You are unfit for the throne; and we have with us a boy of Alamgîr's family who merits it. If you will abdicate and depart, a small country with a killa will be granted and you will be allowed to live in peace; otherwise we will seize you and establish this boy in your place.' The vakîl, with 12,000 horse, encamped near Delhi, and sent the message to Ahmad Shâh Pâdshâh. This news was written to Salabat Jang by

¹ 28th Vaigâsi, *Ângirasa*.

his vakîl at Delhi and brought here from Salabat Jang's camp to Kôdandarâma Pandit, Râmadas Pandit's aunt's son.

*Wednesday, June 7.*¹—Last night, I was stung by a scorpion between the fingers.

I heard to-day that Salabat Jang had brought Saiyid Lashkar Khân from Aurangabad and appointed him Diwân, that he had written to the Governor, and that the latter had sent a reply by a chobdar.²

I also hear that the crores of money in the treasury are exhausted, save a reserve of some 60 or 70 lakhs of rupees. As the sepoys, troopers, etc., have received no pay, they are giving much trouble; so Salabat Jang has Europeans always about him, but keeps the Muhammadans at a distance. As their arrears amount to 20 lakhs of rupees, the camp is full of complaints and confusion.³

*Thursday, June 8.*⁴—There is news of Chandâ Sâhib's writing to the Governor, that M. Law has gone over to Muhammad 'Alî Khân and the English, and ruined everything. The Europeans, Muhammadans and Tamils are all saying that they have the same news from the officers who have quarrelled with M. Law.

¹ 29th Vaigâsi, [*Ângirasa*].

² Cf. p. 100 above, where 'Abd-ul-bâqar Khân was named Diwân by Dupleix.

³ Cf. the situation in Bengal during Clive's first government.

⁴ 30th Vaigâsi, [*Ângirasa*].