

above. Then he told me to go home. I got home at midnight.

Krishna Pillai's letter to me is as follows:—
 M. Le Blanc sent for me on the 14th and told me to get in provisions as the English had reached Tiruvâmiyûr. I said I would do so. He wanted them at once; but I explained that they had to be brought from outside. He insisted that provisions must be sent for and supplied at once, or else I must say I had paid in 1,000 pagodas less than I really had. I replied that I could do nothing till I had written to my master and received his orders. M. Le Blanc hit me on the cheek. I said that he could do as he pleased, but that I was helpless. He then produced a pistol and, pointing it at me, said, "Will you deduct 1,000 pagodas and declare that you have not paid it, or shall I shoot you?" I was afraid that he who had done so much would not hesitate to shoot me, and wrote and signed what he desired. I then told him that the English army were at the village of Kadupuli.¹ M. Le Blanc said that they were not coming here, for he had heard they were marching by Chingleput, and that there was no need to do anything. He would not listen to anything I said, but threatened me, and cared nothing. On the 15th the

¹ Unidentified.

English reached Anga Pillai's Choultry, and on the 16th Badê Sâhib's gardens. Our people sallied out of the fort,¹ and attacked them, killing two officers² and a few soldiers and sepoys, and losing three or four. M. Le Blanc then withdrew into the fort, with my peons. On the evening of the 19th, M. Le Blanc made terms with the English, surrendered the fort, and became a prisoner of war. Fearing to remain during such troubles, I have departed to a village near Pottireddi Chingamanâyakkan-pâlaiyam. As my peons have to be paid, I shall come to Pondichery. I enclose a note in French, saying that the Governor must be informed of M. Le Blanc's behaviour.'

The Maratha troopers to-day, in parties of four, five, eight or ten, plundered the Company's jaghir villages and seized and drove off the cattle; so that the people have been troubled and have run away. A few Maratha horsemen entered my agrahâram at Tiruvêngadapuram, threatening the people and beating and plundering the passers-by; so the inhabitants have fled.

M. La Volonté Kônapparangi went out with a few matchlock-people this afternoon to hinder the Marathas from carrying off the

¹ Reading *Kôttai* for *Kôpai*.

² Lieutenant Cooper is said to have been taken and subsequently killed. (Hill, *Catalogue of the Orme MSS.*, p. 221).

cattle. Each claimed cattle for his own, pointing out false marks, and offering half a rupee or a rupee for each. I hear that he took the money, and delivered them the cattle.

*Friday, September 22.*¹—The Governor asked me if it was true that the fort had been surrendered. I said it was, and that he² was at Tiruvidandai. The Governor said, 'He is a vile dog, and has been bribed by the English to betray us.' I observed, 'He is a rascal. It would take ten thousand sheets to write and three hours to relate his iniquities at Covelong. Such a man would not hesitate to betray us. I am sure he has done so.' I then related his misconduct, and his pretending not to believe in the approach of the enemy; and he answered, 'He must certainly have sold us to the English.'

As we were talking, a letter arrived from M. Melon at Chingleput. He wrote as follows:—'M. Le Blanc surrendered Covelong to the English on Tuesday evening. On Wednesday morning, they hoisted the white flag; and our men from Chingleput and M. St. Germain advanced, supposing we still held the fort. But when he was near the fort, he was surrounded; the white flag was pulled down, the

¹ 10th Puvattāsi, Āngirasa.

² Sc. Le Blanc.

English flag was hoisted, and the enemy attacked. As our people mistook the enemy for our own men, many were killed and M. St. Germain was made prisoner.¹

When the letter had been read, Madame Duplex came and talked to him. The Governor then called me and repeated to me what M. Melon had written. He asked me to send a reply at once, to M. Melon at Chingleput.

I told him that ten bales of thin unbleached cloth had been packed and that there were altogether 1,114 bales on hand. 'Well,' the Governor said, 'will it be sorted to-morrow?' I said that there would be more than 30 bales ready belonging to the Company's merchants and the Kārikāl merchants. I then went to my office.

The Maratha horse came as far as the Bound-hedge to-day, driving off the cattle, plundering the country, and wounding many. Consequently people in the out-villages in alarm took shelter in the town. Their trouble and loss is indescribable. I know not how God will bring our immeasurable troubles to an end. The Governor sent M. d'Auteuil with 60 or 70 of the European body-guard and 200 sepoy to drive them away. They fled; so our people returned by half-past six.

¹ Cf. Sir George Forrest's *Life of Clive*, Vol. I, p. 215.

The Governor sent for me at seven o'clock to-night and said to me angrily:—'M. Le Blanc writes that he surrendered Covelong on the evening of Tuesday, September 19, as the enemy were 2,000 strong, and would have stormed the place. He is a mule, and has betrayed us. Had any breach been made in the walls? Or did he lack provisions? Nothing of the sort. He has betrayed us. He says that he surrendered because he had not men enough to guard the walls if so numerous an enemy attempted an escalade.' I replied suitably. The Governor continued, 'Anyhow he should have warned M. St. Germain that he had surrendered; but he kept quiet, and M. St. Germain with his men fell into the enemy's trap. The latter has been released by the English, and was brought in here at four o'clock. The Marathas wounded him on the way, so he is in the hospital. From what he says, I believe that M. Le Blanc is entirely to blame.' I replied suitably and went to my office.

At ten o'clock to-night, I heard that Mr. Clive, having left a Brâhman as amaldâr at Covelong with some peons to guard the fort, had crossed the backwater with his troops in order to attack Chingleput.

I also hear that M. Le Blanc, after surrendering Covelong, went to Sadras.

Letters came to-day from Salabat Jang and M. Bussy at Hyderabad, saying that Ghâzi-ud-dîn Khân was 35 kos this side of the Narbadâ, that Saiyid Lashkar Khân had been to Poona to treat with Bhâji Râo, that Shâh Nawâz Khân had been given the subah of Hyderabad, with M. Bussy as killedar, that Shaikh Ibrâhîm had been made risaldar and ordered to raise horse, and given a covered palankin; that 40,000 troopers had been enlisted; but they wanted soldiers, sepoy, powder, shot, etc., from Pondichery, for, if affairs there were once established, the Carnatic could quickly be settled as the Governor pleased; so they demanded every man that could be spared from here. So the soldiers and volunteers, etc.—about 100 Europeans—who came on board the *Devanâmpattanam* from Mascareigne with a few sepoy and mortars and cannon, muskets, powder, shot, etc., are to be sent by the *Anson*.

*Sunday, September 24.*¹—I went to the Governor at ten o'clock when he returned from church, and reported the news. He asked if any news had come from Chingleput. I replied, 'Mr. Clive reached Chingleput on Friday; when his troops were seen from the fort, M. Villéon, the commandant, and M.

¹ 12th Purattâsi, Ângîrasa.

Melon, posted the peons and sepoy's for defence. They have provisions for a year, with sufficient powder and shot, so that nothing is wanting for the defence. God's will remains to be seen; but the defenders will leave nothing undone to keep the enemy off.' The Governor replied, 'M. Le Blanc is an Englishman, and a traitor, else Covelong would never have fallen.' I said that was true. He sent for me again afterwards, and observed that the proceeds of the bill of exchange on Sadras could not yet have been sent to Chingleput. I agreed, and then went to my office.

M. Delarche told Yûsuf Bâshi Khân, who brought the Pâdshâh's parwâna, that he could reach Masulipatam in three days by the *Anson* which is bound thither. Yûsuf then went to the Governor and said that he preferred to go by land instead of sea.

The Governor sent for me at three o'clock this afternoon and said that he would give 50 rupees to any one who delivered a letter (which he gave me) to the commandant of Chingleput. I gave 20 rupees to two men and sent them off, telling them of the Governor's promise. Again the Governor sent for me and told me to send another letter. So I gave 20 rupees to two more men and despatched them.

I hear this morning that Muhammad 'Alî Khân, who was at Tiruviti, is halting at

Tiruttalûr on his way to Arcot, as he cannot cross the Pennâr which is full. As it was raining when he set out, and as the river was full, his affair cannot prosper.

When I told the Governor, he asked why the Marathas had allowed him to go. I said I had heard that they intended to accompany him.

*Tuesday, September 26.*¹—As bleached cloth was being examined, I went to the Fort this morning. When I was about to leave after the cloth had been packed, the Governor's peon called me. When I went and paid my respects, he asked the news from Chingleput. I said that the following had been written:—'Mr. Clive and others are camped in the Nattam village. His troops cannot approach the fort from the west, east or north, but only from the south, where is the fort gate. He is trying to raise batteries, but is prevented by the fire of the fort. Being helpless, he has sent to Covelong for 3 or 4 mortars in order to drop shell into the fort. Nothing will be done until then. If a small body of troops were sent from here, and the garrison of the fort made a brisk attack, the enemy would be put to flight. The fort gate is said to have been removed and the place built up.'

¹ 14th Purattâsi, Ângirâsa.