

manner. So saying, I placed them on the table.

The Governor then said, 'M. Porcher writes from Kârikâl that Sakkâji Nâyakkan,¹ the minister at Tanjore, with 1,000 people including 20 musketeers, is going on a pilgrimage to Benares, for which passes are desired. I think they will be useful from Chidambaram to Sâdras. Is this so?' I replied, 'Our authority now extends only so far; but our orders will be respected in the countries beyond Nellore, Masulipatam, Narasapur, Chicacole, Ellore, Rajahmundry and even to Jagannath. Shaikh Ibrâhîm is amaldâr in these parts, and Vijayarâma Râjâ the renter. All the Europeans and commandants there are under the orders of M. Moracin, so if the passes are written in French, they will be respected in those places as well. Moreover there are Frenchmen at Hugli, Chandernagore, Patna, etc., places, where our words will be respected also.'— 'You are right,' the Governor replied, 'write out the passes and bring them to me.' According to custom, I wrote them in Persian and Marathi, and the Governor wrote in French, signed them and told me to get them sealed with the Persian seal. I did so accordingly.

¹ See the *Tanjore Manual*, p. 789.

The Governor then [asked] if the French were so widely respected. 'Yes,' I replied, adding, 'Do the English, Dutch or other nations of Europe command such respect? And among the Muhammadans no one is so respected except Salabat Jang. Though affairs are not as they should be here in Pondichery, which was equal to the seat of the Pâdshâh's throne, yet by God's grace you will set matters right.' The Governor smiled and said, 'Formerly when Nâsîr Jang was slain and Hidâyat Muhî-ud-dîn Khân appointed subahdar of the Deccan, the Pâdshâh's throne was held in esteem, but now it has lost its dignity, which it will never recover.' I replied, 'A Brâhman who came here in 1744 and 1745, when the English ships were seizing our vessels from Manilla, China and Achin, foretold that Madras would be captured, that our troops would march to Arcot, Aurangabad and Burhanpur, and that we should hold authority. According to him, there would be both good and evil fortune, and from next year there would again be prosperity. His predictions have been fulfilled till now and will be fulfilled in future.' The Governor replied that there would never more be such prosperity, as the times had changed, and asked if the Brâhman was still living. I replied that he had died four or five years ago.

He then said, 'There is a country called the Kâpri country¹ to the north of France. There is a prince of Kâpri, and the English used to trade there. But the year before last there fell some disagreement between him and the English and many English were killed. Fearing what might be done, he sent ambassadors to the King of France, seeking his protection, and an agreement was made with him. Knowing that the English were about to march with an army against him, the King of France despatched 10,000 soldiers and ships. It was therefore expected that war would result between the English and French Kings; and so the English are preparing for war here, and we are doing the same. If war is declared between the English and French Kings, there will be war here.' I replied, 'This news has only come lately, since you arrived. When I then said that there would be war here, you objected that there could be none because of your eighteen months' truce; but we are now preparing for war which is expected next year. The Brâhman's words have never been mistaken.'

¹ The reference seems to be to America; but why it should be called the 'Kâpri country' does not clearly appear. I take it to mean what English contemporaries called 'Coffry' or Negro, in allusion to the large number of Negro slaves in many of the American Colonies. But the reference may be to troubles on the West African Coast.

*Friday, August 15.*¹—At half-past seven this morning, I went to M. Leyrit the Governor, and, after paying my respects, reported that Muhammad 'Alî Khân, who was at Tiruvannâmalai, had put that place into the hands of Khair-ud-dîn Khân. He asked why he was not on his way to Arcot and why he had halted. I said, 'It is in his country, so he will stay there five or six days and proceed after settling affairs.' The Governor told me to write to our people with him to send news from Arcot as soon as Muhammad 'Alî Khân arrived. I replied that no letter need be written as that Brâhman was paid and kept there solely in order to send news thence. The Governor did not give any reply, but, on account of the feast, went to church with the councillors, etc., heard mass, and went upstairs on his return. The European officials, merchants and others visited him. I did the same. All were talking with the Governor, so I went to my office in the flower-garden.

*Monday, August 18.*²—The council broke up at twelve this morning. When I was in the sorting-godown, M. Flacourt who has returned from Srîrangam whither he went as commissary, came to me, as he could not visit the Governor, and said, 'By means of 32 palankin-bearers posted at stages, I have come

¹ 3rd Âvani, Yuva.

² 6th Âvani, Yuva.