

came up to me and said, 'A letter has come saying that Qâsim Pâdshâh [*sic*] the Nawâb of Bengal, has seized Calcutta, the capital of the English in Bengal, with all the goods in the factory there, imprisoned the Europeans he found there, and plundered the town. The Governor and the councillors have therefore fled from the city with their treasure, and have taken refuge in a ship in the Ganges, while the Nawâb is plundering the whole city and pulling down the European buildings. The troops sent up from the coast have not yet reached Calcutta; on their arrival they will attack and capture it; but even then, they will find nothing there but corpses, so that hereafter the place will have little attraction for them.' Thereon I asked M. Barthélemy the causes of this war. He replied, 'Alî Virdi Khân, who was long Nawâb died five or six months ago and his younger brother's son immediately succeeded him. The French, the Danes, the Dutch and others in his country, visited him with nazars, but the English did not, saying that they would only do so when he had received his parwâna of confirmation from the Pâdshâh.<sup>1</sup> This conduct on the part of men who were only tenants under him exasperated the Nawâb,

<sup>1</sup> But Cf. Hill's *Bengal*, in 1756-67, Vol. I, p. xlviii, and references cited there.

so he has seized their city and done them all this damage. When they lost Madras, they could borrow a crore of rupees to continue their business, as they still had the city of Calcutta; and they have not yet repaid that loan. What other town have they where, in time of need, they can borrow one or even two crores? All wealth centred there, and no city of India could be compared with it. But now that they have lost their wealthy city, they will hardly be able to continue exporting the silk yarn and cloth, the shawls, and the other produce of Bengal. Their day of prosperity is over and they cannot endure much longer.' I replied, 'By the destruction of Lisbon, the capital of Portugal, the English suffered great losses. Now too they have lost much. The Angrias and Marathas are attacking Lemba,<sup>1</sup> so there is trouble there. Amidst all these misfortunes, the English can scarcely prosper on this coast.' He answered that the times were so bad as to involve all the hat-wearing people in troubles. 'True,' I replied, 'the Tranquebar people have suffered troubles, the like of which they had never known before. The Dutch too have suffered great losses and their trade in India has

<sup>1</sup> Alluding, I suppose, to the differences following the capture of Gheriah. But the text must be corrupt. Perhaps Bombay is meant. Cf. Duff's *Mahrattas* (ed. 1912), ii. 97, etc., and Forrest's *Bombay Sel.* (Maratha Ser.), i. 115, etc.

declined. As for the Portuguese, their capital has been destroyed. There are troubles in the Masulipatam country, so what you say is true.' Afterwards he took leave. M. Delarche, M. du Bausset and other councillors also took leave and departed.

The Governor then called me and said, 'The two sons of Akkal Nâyakkan have been brought to me by the St. Paul's priests. I propose to make them poligars in Tiruviti, etc., villages and present them with four yards of broadcloth. What do you say?' I replied, 'I do not know the whole of their history; I have heard only a little about them and what they themselves have told me. Kullama Nâyakkan and these two are kinsmen. I must learn more about them before I say anything. I cannot make rash promises, for, if I appoint and send them, Kullama Nâyakkan may create disturbances in our villages which will disturb our cultivators and hinder our tillage.' 'What shall we do, then?' the Governor asked I replied, 'The affair will only go smoothly if we first send for and question Kullama Nâyakkan, and hear what he says. Otherwise there will be trouble.' The Governor agreed, and told me to send for the men, first removing the broadcloth he had meant for them. Sadâsiva Reddi (who married the daughter of Muttiya Pillai's concubine) brought them.

They presented a nazar of 21 rupees. The Governor said that he had told me everything and that I would settle their affair if they went with me. We then took leave, and on our way I met the Second going home to dinner. I paid my respects to him and came home.

*Sunday, August 15.*<sup>1</sup>—When I went to the Fort this morning, M. Leyrit, the Governor, had returned from mass and was upstairs watching for ships. When I had paid him my respects, he said, 'In the Tirukkôyilûr affair, Muhî-ud-dîn Sâhib and Gurumûrti Ayyan refused to acknowledge Abu Muhammad as amaldâr, and stopped and hurt in mistake for Abu Muhammad's people M. Dubon and seven or eight European guards who had gone thither. I have already warned you not to employ Europeans, and I must blame you for doing business through these men.' I replied, 'The Europeans were not hurt, nor were they my sureties. Formerly Vasantarâya Pillai and Gurumûrti Ayyan were my managers. The first was a very able man. On his death, I appointed Abu Muhammad, accepting a Tamil as his surety. As a difference arose between Abu Muhammad and his surety, I ordered that, until the difference was settled, Abu Muhammad should not do the

<sup>1</sup> 3rd Âvani, Dhâthu.