

I also hear that in the plunder of the day before yesterday, 20,000 pagodas were seized in the house of an oil-monger from the north and between 5,000 and 10,000 pagodas in four or five other houses besides other booty.

I also hear that M. le Comte de Montmorancy has been appointed in the place of M. Leyrit.

Early this morning I heard that orders had been given not to seize Brâhmans or bazaar-men. The council sat from five till seven in the evening.

M. Boyelleau then sent a man to demand the money I owe him. I sent word back that he had as a pledge bales of coarse bluecloth which should not be sold at present owing to the troubles, but as soon as they were over, he might sell them himself, or I would sell them and pay him what I owed, and that therefore he should be pleased to wait. As after the council had broken up, he again demanded the money, I think that money affairs must have been discussed at the council and that all must have agreed to contribute.<sup>1</sup>

I hear that orders have been given to take Europeans' carts and bullocks for transport for the munitions that have to be sent;

<sup>1</sup> Ranga Pillai's guess is very probable. On the 16th, 20,000 rupees were sent to camp and on the 18th Chevreau was sent with a lakh (Leyrit to Lally, May 18, 1758, *Mémoire pour Leyrit*, p. 21.)

M. Law has returned wounded; the officers captured in the batteries have been imprisoned in the Fort dungeon, and the soldiers in the godown by the Villiyanallûr gate.

The sound of firing at Fort St. David was heard from five this evening until midnight.

*Thursday, May 18.*<sup>1</sup>—When I was at home this morning, a chobdar came at ten o'clock and said that M. Leyrit wanted me. I left at once, paid my respects to him, and stood waiting. Half an hour after, he asked if I had come. Kandappa Mudali replied that I had come about an hour before. He then turned to me and said that the towns-people should be ordered by beat of tom-tom to attend at the Beach this evening, under penalty for neglect of being tied to the Choultry posts and receiving 50 stripes each, besides the sale of their houses by auction, and a fine of 50 pagodas. Agreeing, I came out and directed the Choultry-people to announce this order by beat of tom-tom. I then came home, and, after taking my food at two, went back to the Fort at three and visited the Governor who said that he was going to the Beach, and that I should go first. So I went and waited by the stone *mantapam* where the towns-people had assembled. Cannon, bombs, shot, powder-chests, planks,

<sup>1</sup> 8th Vaigâsi, Bahudânya.

bundles of leaves and other things were being laded on a ship and a sloop. Then the Governor came and I followed him to the Beach. He ordered me to tell all the people to carry bundles of leaves. I replied, 'No coolies or work-people have come here, for all have gone to camp. Here are only officials, writers, Chettis, merchants and Brâhmans.'—'Then,' said he, 'I will carry some and you should do the like.' I replied that such a thing should only be done in an emergency. 'What else can be done when there are no people?' he replied. I continued, 'In no Governor's time has the town suffered so much as now. Surely people will desert the town, and this will bring infamy upon you. I tell you this as it is my duty to do so.' He then said, 'Get 200 people for the work and send the rest away.' So I sent away the Brâhmans and supplied 230 men from among the rest. The Governor sent for me again and said, 'By sunrise to-morrow, you must supply 1,000 men, or I will exact 10,000 pagodas from you.' I replied, 'I see no one here, but I will do my

<sup>1</sup> "Ce n'a pas été le moindre de mes embarras," wrote Leyrit, "durant tout le siège que celui de fournir des gens de corvée. Arrivés au camp, personne n'avait le soin de les garder, de les nourrir, et de les renvoyer, de sorte qu'ils fuyaient tous dans les terres, sauf à moi à recommencer de nouvelles levées pleines de désagréments et de difficultés, et devenues quelquefois impossibles." (*Mémoire pour Leyrit*, P 35 note.)

best.' Having come out, I sent for the Choultry-people and two of the chief people of each caste, whose signatures I obtained for the number each should supply, arranging with them to provide 1,000 persons by to-night. I then came home.

I heard afterwards that a lakh of rupees had been sent to-day to M. Lally for the army expenses and that more would be sent.

*Friday, May 19.*<sup>1</sup>—This morning I sent to the Fort the 300 men impressed last night, with orders that they were to be sent to M. Lally. I then went to the Fort, and, having visited the Governor, went to the office in the flower-garden. A chobdar came and told me that the Governor wanted me, so I went to the Fort and saw M. Leyrit, the Governor, and M. La Selle in the sorting-godown. [The Governor] asked why I had sent no men. I replied that I had sent 300. He answered that the men I had sent were those already in the Company's employ, and that therefore they had gone to work under it. I answered that all the available men in the town had gone to the camp and that no more coolies were available. M. La Selle said that there were still a few in the Brâhman houses. I replied, 'There are not. All those who live

<sup>1</sup> 9th Vaigasi, Bahudânya.

here are working for the Company ; and those who came here to beg have gone, and those Brâhmans who still remain here are having their food cooked by their women.' Then I sent for the Choultry-people, gave them the necessary orders, and came home at noon.

At three o'clock the Governor sent for me again and asked why no coolies had been supplied. I replied, 'There are none ; those that have been sent are natives of this place, and those that go out do not return ; yet 70 men have just been sent.'—'I will levy fines,' he replied. 'You must collect what amount you please,' I answered, and came home at seven.

To-night I heard the following news:—Two men came out from Fort St. David with a white flag, to treat for peace with M. Lally, offering to surrender the fort and the Company's goods on condition of being allowed to depart with their arms and goods and money. M. Lally replied that any women there were might go without interference, but that the men must surrender the fort, lay down their arms, and march out under guard, for he would not suffer them to march out like victors with their goods and weapons. After doing their utmost, the two returned to the fort.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> No capitulation seems to have been proposed at so early a date.

A shell fell in the fort the day before yesterday and demolished a house ; but two others which also fell in the fort dropped into the mud and another fell into a tank. There were in the fort about 40 Brâhmans and officials, 1,000 sepoy and guards, and 200 Europeans. Out of these 200 Europeans, 50 or 60 have died, and there are only 150 Europeans and 100 Topasses.<sup>1</sup> I hear that the above news has been reported by Rangô Pandit's man.

No heavy firing was heard to-day. I gave presents of rupees to my peons and sent them out to impress men and bring them in. I summoned the *nâttârs* of the several castes and repeated the orders to them. I also gave similar orders to the Nayinâr and the Choultry-people. This is the news.

*Saturday, May 20.*<sup>2</sup>—I sent to the Fort this morning the 120 men impressed by the peons I sent last night, and then went to the office in the flower-garden and stayed there till noon, giving orders to collect men. Till eleven o'clock I could hear the sound of the mortars firing at Fort St. David. I came home at noon, had my food, drove out at five and

<sup>1</sup> By a return of April 1 (cited *ap. Military Consultations*, May 2, 1758) the garrison consisted of 283 Europeans, 93 Topasses, 1,300 Sepoys, 83 Pensioners and 234 Lascars to whom were added the crews of the *Bridgewater* and *Triton*—250 Europeans—run ashore on d' Aché's arrival.

<sup>2</sup> 10th Vaigâsi, Bahudânya.

returned home at seven. As I have heard no renewal of the firing, I think that the negotiations of yesterday must be continuing to-day also.

I hear that M. Lally, on learning yesterday that the people impressed by beat of tom-tom the day before were suffering greatly, wrote to M. Leyrit saying that only coolies should be seized, and the towns-people should not be troubled. I also hear that Brâhmans, merchants, Chettis and others are leaving the town.

*Sunday, May 21.*<sup>1</sup>—When I was at home this morning, I heard that people had been collected at the Choultry and sent, that men had been posted at the Villiyanâllûr gate to seize people, that three cannon had been sent to camp, and that, when M. Lally asked why troops were kept at Srîrangam, he was told that they were posted there as the *sibbandis* were insufficient, on which M. Lally said that that was wrong, that Srîrangam should be abandoned<sup>2</sup>, and that after examining a map of Srîrangam which was shown to him, he ordered a letter to be written to Nandi Râjâ saying that he might take Srîrangam on his paying what he owed the French.

<sup>1</sup> 11th Vaigâsi, Bahudânya.

<sup>2</sup> Reading *Viluthuppôdacholli* for *Pidithuppôdacholli*.

It is said that only four or five shells have been fired by our people into Fort St. David, and no guns have been fired by the fort-people, that plenty of provisions have been sent to camp and that M. Lally is conducting the attack very carefully.

*Monday, May 22.*<sup>1</sup>—When I was at home, an officer came to me at ten o'clock and said that M. Guillard and others were saying that I was to be continued in my appointment and allowed to possess the country. I replied that it was the nature of the people here to spread such false rumours.

Mêlugiri Chetti came to me at noon and said that Savarirâya Pillai had gone into the Fort with all the account rolls which he had in his house. When I was pondering why he had done so, Mêlugiri Chetti came back to me at six after making enquiries and said, 'After M. Clouët had spoken with M. Leyrit at ten o'clock, the latter sent for M. Desvaux and told him to bring the accounts. Savarirâya Pillai took them accordingly. He was asked for how much the country had been leased to you and what the balance of rent was; he replied that he would have to examine the accounts and that he would give an extract in four or five days; he then took the accounts home.'

<sup>1</sup> 12th Vaigâsi, Bahudânya.