

right to give him so much. Let M. Lally come. M. Clouët is a fool, and M. Montmorency's desires have been kindled. But I will speak to M. Lally and settle your business.'—'Very good,' I said.

He then said in the presence of merchants, 'The price of the white Salampores, Dutch sort, *Patathikâri*,¹ brought from Fort St. David, including bleaching, was fixed at 23 *per* corge for the first quality and 22 for the second; as a third is to be given to M. Lally, the Company will lose. So be careful about the price.' I repeated this to the merchants. Twenty bales of Salampores of 15 *leunjams* (or $7\frac{1}{2}$ *kâls*) were offered at 20 pagodas a corge. I then came home at eleven.

Afterwards I heard the following news:—M. Lally first gave a cowle for Nagore and hoisted the white flag, but afterwards withdrew the cowle and ordered the merchants', Chettis', and others' houses to be plundered; and all the women's cloths, arecanut and other things which were found have been bought by three Europeans.² There has thus been

¹ Quere, *bharakdâri*, of fine quality.

² On the 5th Lally wrote to M. Leyrit that he had sold the Nagore plunder to Fischer (commander of the German corps) for two lakhs of rupees and a diamond worth 12,000 francs. Fischer was believed to be in partnership with the Danes in this venture (*Mémoire pour Leyrit*, p. 100). Lally had only 50,000 rupees in his military chest at this time.

wholesale plunder. Besides this the images at Kîvalûr and Tiruvâlûr have been carried off. Sînappayyan has been ordered to accompany the army, as, when he was asked for two lakhs, he pleaded that he had nothing. The Dutch at Negapatam have given a lakh of pagodas besides the provisions demanded.¹ The people at Tranquebar are also supplying provisions.

The Râjâ of Tanjore is said to be encamped at Mâriammankôvil and our people at Ammâpêttai; M. Soupire has been sent for and is about to start; Pâpayya Pillai has returned from M. Soupire without settling his business; and the booty taken at Nagore is said to be reckoned at nine lakhs. It is not known what will happen.

Wednesday, July 12.²—This morning M. Boyelleau and M. Cornet went to the sorting-godown at the Fort, and ordered in the presence of the Company's and the Kârikâl merchants the price of the cloth taken at Fort St. David to be fixed and the cloth baled. Thirty-nine bales of fine Salampores, Dutch pattern, were packed to-day at 20 instead of 22 pagodas a corge, according to the rates

¹ On June 27, Lally demanded a loan of a lakh of rupees and provisions; the Dutch Governor, Vermont, promised provisions but declined the loan. (Lally to Vermont and the latter's reply, June 27, 1758, *Mémoire pour Leyrit*, pp. 93-94.)

² 32nd *Âni*, *Bahudânya*.

written yesterday; 32 bales of white long-cloth, Dutch sort, were packed, at 38 pagodas a corge instead of 45 or 43 pagodas at least. Thus 71 bales were packed to-day, and, inclusive of the bales packed yesterday, the total number of bales is 91. Each bale of the Salampores contains four corge and each bale of longcloth contains a corge and a half.¹ When the bales were being packed, the Comte de Montmorency arrived. These people at once brought and showed him inferior cloths, quoting their prices. He then departed. I think he has been shown the cloth because he is to have a part of M. Lally's share. When he had gone, the councillors told me that they had resolved that, if M. Lally questioned me about the prices quoted, I was to swear that they were fair and just. I replied to M. Boyelleau and M. Cornet, 'I cannot do that, even if he is entitled to a share by risking his life on the battlefield. What should I gain by saying so? Why make me take an oath to the price in this petty matter? I declare that I will not take a false oath.' They replied that matters would not go so far as that, and that they had simply mentioned what had been decided. I replied, 'Whether matters go so far or not, you cannot expect me to take a

¹ These were the long-established rates of packing these varieties of cloth. (*Madras Public Consultations*, November 17, 1768, p. 780.)

false oath, and you may tell that to any one.' I came home at noon.

*Friday, July 14.*¹—I heard the following news to-day:—As the soldiers in camp complained to M. Lally, the General, of having been struck by M. Saubinet, M. Lally sent for him and told him sharply that the soldiers would be allowed to beat any one who beat them. It is said that M. Saubinet unable to bear such a reproof, retired to his tent and shot himself with a pistol.²

*Tuesday, July 18.*³—The news to-day is as follows:—2,000 horse and 10,000 foot of the Râjâ of Tanjore are encamped at Ammâpêttai, east of Tanjore; M. Lally is at Kôvilvenni about five miles east of Ammâpêttai beyond Ammaiappan and Pâchakkadai with 1,000 soldiers and 2,000 foot. When last Friday the 2,000 horse and foot at Ammâpêttai advanced, the soldiers and sepoy at Kôvilvenni opened fire with their cannon, whereon the former fired rockets; five or six of Lally's men were wounded and 15 of the Râjâ's horses killed, and as many wounded. After a few men had fallen, the Râjâ's troops retreated and fled, leaving two cannon and 30 matchlocks in the enemy's hands. Chokkalingam

¹ *2nd Âdi, Bahudânya.*

² If true, not fatally, for he served in the siege of Madras, where he was severely wounded.

³ *6th Âdi, Bahudânya.*

with 500 of the Tanjore horse has attacked and plundered Tirumalrâyapattanam and four *mâhâns*; and Haidar Nâyak, from Mysore, has passed Karûr, Nerûr and Tottiyam with 2,000 horse on his way to join M. Lally.

It is said here that Razâ Sâhib is enlisting troopers, foot and peons and Dêsâi Sâmâ Râo, troopers, that Murtazâ 'Alî Khân of Vellore has sent his horse to M. Lally's camp, and that Muhammad 'Alî Khân is about to enlist horse.

*Sunday, July 23.*¹—Varadappa Nâyakkan who has come from Kârikâl reports that, when M. Lally the General's troops marched from Ammâpêttai and encamped at Mâriammankôvil, a jemadar with some troopers went to him from Tanjore to open negotiations; M. Lally detained them in his camp, and sent Sînappayyan and a Padré² to Tanjore, who settled the affair for 30 lakhs with 10 lakhs in ready money³. M. Lally however wanted in addition the Tirukkâttuppalli fort⁴, and, the Râjâ refusing to give it up, M. Lally is resolved to seize it somehow. It

¹ 11th *Âdi, Bahudânya.*

² The Jesuit, St. Esteven, who was accompanied by a military officer, Maudave.

³ The Râjâ does not seem to have risen above five lakhs. (Orme, ii, 324).

⁴ With a view to the intended attack on Trichinopoly.

remains to be seen what will happen and I will write it later.

*Tuesday, July 25.*¹—The Râjâ of Tanjore himself and Manôji Appâ have opened negotiations for peace.

I also hear that, when M. Leyrit was talking with some Europeans upstairs on their return from church after hearing mass, M. Clouët came and reported to the Governor that Viswanâtha Reddi of the Devanâmpattanam country only offered to pay 13,000 pagodas a year rent beginning from next year, but that three Christians had offered through the Superior of the St. Paul's church to pay 14,000 pagodas a year, and he added that kists should not be postponed till next year. On his telling M. Leyrit that he had brought them², they were called in, given two yards of broadcloth as a present, and dismissed with the lease of the country.

I hear that M. Boyelleau's swelling is increasing, he can only breathe with difficulty and is in great distress³, taking physic as well as being bled, and his son-in-law has been informed of his condition by letter.

*Wednesday, July 26.*⁴—I drove out this evening and returned home at seven. Afterwards I heard that English ships had been

¹ 13th *Âdi, Bahudânya.*

² He survived however until 1788.

³ *i. e.*, the Christians.

⁴ 14th *Âdi, [Bahudânya].*

sighted in the offing, on which all the European ships in the harbour were sailing northwards, and the officers, soldiers, etc., who had been landed, had embarked again. Gnânaprakâsa Mudali and four other Christians are said to have obtained the Devanâmpattanam country for 13,000 pagodas, the same as Viswanâtha Reddi offered. I also hear that Savarirâyan and Dairiyanâthan have quarrelled.

*Thursday, July 27.*¹—I hear that English ships appeared off the fort of Âlambarai and fired a few shot at it, seized a sloop which was bringing fuel hither, and burnt five or six *pannai*² laden with fuel and faggots. In consequence therefore M. Leyrit's wife and others have returned here, and M. Soupire came into the fort last night, having ordered his troops to Âlambarai. I hear that Savarirâyan, when returning in a carriage last evening from Ariyânkuppam, saw a King's officer on horseback who abused his man, and then dismounting beat both the driver and Savarirâyan; on this Savarirâyan drove home as fast as he could, and, returning with his peons, ordered them to arrest the officer, but he attacked them with a Moghul sword and made the peons fly, one falling over the other, killing four or five.

¹ 15th Âdi, Bahudânya.

² Coasting vessels.

I hear that M. Lally's troops are at Ânandavalliyammankôvil and Manôji's Choultry east of Tanjore, but the Tanjore horse are preventing provisions from reaching our men, who, owing to this blockade, are entrenching themselves; no agreement has yet been made.

I also hear that, in fear of the officer, Savarirâyan's house is being guarded by ten soldiers and foot, and that Savarirâyan and Dairiyanâthan are still unfriendly.

*Friday, July 28.*¹—When I went to the Fort this morning, I learnt that M. Leyrit had gone to the harbour about the nine English ships sighted to the north-east; he returned to the Fort after ten, when the ships had been laden with provisions, and hastily held a council in which it was resolved to give battle. M. d'Aché, the ships' commander, was informed of this² and desired to put to sea; so he went off at eleven o'clock; a gun was fired when he embarked; a white, a red and a black flag were hoisted; and another gun fired when the flags were ready for hoisting. In all nine ships sailed according to the details given below:—

the *Zodiaque*, captain d'Aché with 770 men on board³;

¹ 16th Âdi, Bahudânya.

² See Leyrit's letter to d'Aché of this day. (*Mémoire pour Leyrit*, p. 129.)

³ D'Aché (first *Mémoire*, pp. 32, etc.) says he had only 500 men on board, and the other vessels in proportion.