

*Monday, June 30.*¹—The Villiyallûr fort guns were firing this morning because the Mysore troopers had withdrawn, our people who were at the Perumbai hills had retired within the Bounds, and the English horse at Valudâvûr advanced to Villiyallûr, Arumpâtai Pillai's Choultry, the Bound-hedge and my garden outside. Our people who were outside at Olukarai escaped into the Bounds. Seven or eight guns were fired at Ella Pillai's Choultry and our people are thus earning much glory.

When I went to the Fort this morning, M. Boyelleau, M. Lenoir, and M. La Grenée came. They spoke of the retirement of the Mysore horse, the negotiations between them and us, their departure, our people's retreat from the Perumbai hills to the Bounds, the course of events in the town, and the wretched state to which it has been reduced. I said, 'The town has fallen into poverty. The Company has seized the paddy stored by people for their maintenance and collected such taxes from them that the town will go to ruin.' M. Boyelleau and M. Lenoir replied, 'The Tamils are like dogs, for we can make enquiries only when some one complains to us. The Governor never

¹20th *Âni*, *Vikrama*.

troubles to enquire and does no more than a wall. The Tamils are under the complete control of others, and point out such and such a man as having [? paddy] in his house, thus betraying their fellows. What can we do if people merely sit at home? We can only speak for them if some 20 or 30 will come together and complain to us.' I continued, 'Formerly in M. Lenoir's time, when people suffered much for want of grain, he summoned the merchants, advanced money to them and made them get 1,000 or 2,000 garse of grain from Yânâm, Masulipatam, Ganjam, Bimlipatam and other places in the north, stipulating at the same time that the Company should bear all losses while gain, if any, went to the merchants and that the Company would be responsible for unforeseen events occurring either from an act of State or from the act of God, and all duties were taken off. Thus he protected the people. He thus not only filled the town with grain but supplied the Nawâbs of Arcot, Cuddapah, etc., with 1,000 or 2,000 bullock-loads of rice. In M. Beauvoilier's time a tax of 4,000 pagodas *per annum* had been established for the construction of the surrounding walls. But one day when M. Lenoir drove out, women came weeping in a body before him, so he returned, called Kanakarâya Mudali, and

asked him why the women had done this. He replied, "M. Beauvoilier imposed a tax of 4,000 pagodas a year on the people to build the surrounding walls and it is being paid. I think the complaint must be about that." M. Lenoir said, "How can people prosper if they are made to pay such a tax and how will the town flourish? You had better come to-morrow morning and I will settle the matter." Accordingly the council which was held the next morning, decided that the wall-tax and the farm of the shroffs' shops should be reduced by a thousand a year. The council's records of 1725 contain the signatures of all.¹ Thus he governed so as to make the town prosperous; and if you would bestow your attention as he did, the town still would thrive, but otherwise it will go to ruin and then you will have to return to Europe. You know the state of affairs as well as M. Boyelleau.' Thus we talked of this and other affairs. As the clock struck eleven, I came home. I have not heard anything important.

¹ The wall-tax was imposed in 1724 and realized only 900 pagodas a year. In 1728 at the request of the merchants it was suppressed but the customs were raised one per cent. on imports and one-third per cent. on exports (*Délibérations du Conseil Supérieur*, 27 July 1728, vol. ii, p. 189). The Shroffs' or Exchange Farm was suppressed on 2 September following (*op. cit.*, p. 193).

I hear that a harkara has brought a letter to M. Lally saying that M. Mariaur¹ the commandant of Gingee who was encamped near Tyāgadrug, attacked Krishna Rāo² and took him prisoner, and that the harkara has been given a present of two rupees.

I paid M. Duplant this morning 200 Pondichery crescent pagodas or 725 rupees at the current rate on account of the 10,000 rupees of my assessment, and obtained a receipt for the amount.

M. Lally's European guards brought in the Mysore vakils, Venkatanāranappa Ayyan and Venkâji Pandit, from Villiyanallûr and the latter are lodged in the Brâhman street.

When M. Leyrit went at ten o'clock this morning to visit M. Lally who came in yesterday evening, he found some hundred officers and Europeans present with M. Lally in his lodgings upstairs. M. Leyrit had scarcely reached the top of the stairs when M. Lally came to him and said, 'There is no need for you or the councillors to visit me or cross my threshold. I do not need your help nor you and the councillors mine.' As M. Lally spoke thus in the presence of so many Europeans, M. Leyrit returned immediately to the Fort in his palankin with his head sunk on his

¹ Cf. p. 94, n. *supra*.

² He had been killedar of Tyāgadrug.