

to be collected from these houses when the Government is in [possession of] every house? He made no reply, but only looked up and down.

Afterwards Bâpu Râo of the tobacco-godown came and said, 'When I spoke to M. Dubois to-day about the tobacco-tax, he advised me to present a petition to the council. I replied that it was not my business but the Company's, and that therefore there was no need to present any petition. I was then told to ask M. Leyrit to write about it.' But even then [M. Leyrit] remained silent.

None of the councillors came. M. Guillard visited the *comptoir* and then went away.

M. Solminiac, M. La Tour, etc., ten persons in all, came to speak of the tax imposed on them and went away. Then came two Padrés of the St. Paul's church and the Padrés of the Capuchins' church and they went away after talking.

I could not present the petition about the sepoys' affair to-day because there was no council. I told Appu Mudali that it might be presented to-morrow if council met, and came home at eleven.

M. Gontin¹ the second Major sent for my Muttu Pillai this afternoon. He sent his

¹ Described in Coote's List of Prisoners (*Orme MSS. India*, viii, p. 2002) as Major of Invalids.

younger brother Appâvu owing to a ceremony in his house. When he went, M. Gontin said, 'As the soldiers are starving, M. Lally said they might carry off grain and other provisions in several houses. I told him that he should not do so, and that I would send for the several people and get provisions. You must, therefore, write a list of the rice, ghi and other provisions in your house.' Appâvu replied, 'There are in my house 20 persons who need 20 measures of rice daily, and at that rate there is only rice on hand for 15 days.' M. Gontin replied, 'You will not speak the truth until you are asked properly. You will learn when I order the soldiers to plunder the house.' Appâvu repeated that his provisions would last only for 15 days, so he was ordered to go. I hear that my name and those of Savarirâya Pillai, Râmalinga Pillai and other selected persons—about 20 or 30 in all—have been written and that we shall be sent for and questioned.

M. Bussy's secretary arrived from Madras to-day. He met me beyond the Madras gate when I was driving out this evening, and said, 'M. Bussy and M. Kennely left for Europe by an English ship seven days ago and I came away three days after their departure. Mr. Pigot set out with five or six councillors,

dubâshes, 10 or 12 palankin-bearers, 1,000 sepoys, 200 horse and 2 guns and I followed them ; they went to Valudâvûr and I came here.' Pigot's arrival at Valudâvûr must be true, for 21 guns were fired there yesterday, and a like number at Villiyanallûr at sun-rise this morning. I hear that Pigot has come in order to blacken the faces of the Frenchmen who formerly announced that they had captured him.

*Sunday, August 24.*¹—I went to the Fort this morning and paid my respects to M. Leyrit, the Governor, as he was going to church to hear mass. He sent word that the Fort church should be opened and everything made ready for mass, but the Padré went and waited at the Capuchins' church thinking that M. Leyrit had said that he would go there. M. Leyrit went to the Fort church, but as he found it closed, he went to the Capuchins' church only to find that mass was over. In some anger he went at last to the St. Paul's church at ten o'clock, and, having heard mass along with the Tamils, thence went to M. Landivisiau's house, and after conversing with him, returned to the Fort.

Râmachandra Ayyan, Kandappa Mudali and Pâpayya Pillai's son came and talked

¹ 12th Âvani, Vîkrama.

with me about the sepoys' affair. M. Guillard then came. I said, 'I hear that the Major, M. Gontin, says that people are to be ordered by beat of tom-tom to depart ; that there are 100 people in my house who consume about 200 measures of rice daily or 6,000 measures a month ; and that, as these 6,000 measures will suffice for 6,000 soldiers, only four persons should be allowed to remain in my house, and the rest directed to depart, while in the remaining houses only one should remain in each and the rest go.' M. Guillard observed, 'I know nothing of this, but suppose these orders to be M. Lally's, who will in 15 or 20 days, order the soldiers to plunder the place. But if such a thing is destined to happen, I would rather die alone now, since in three days' time we shall all perish for want of food.'—'Well,' I replied, 'if I am ordered to depart, let me receive Mr. Pigot's or Colonel Coote's passport and be pleased to write two letters, one to the Governor of Tranquebar, and the other to the Governor of Negapatam, desiring them kindly to protect the Company's people who are coming. During the former English troubles all left the town, but I alone remained helping the Company. M. Dupleix wrote about this to Europe, and replies came praising me. I and my relations have remained here, being unwilling to leave, but what

can I do when you yourselves want me to go?' M. Guillard replied that he would tell all this to M. Leyrit at four o'clock. I continued, 'Did I not tell you three years ago that this town would recover like a ship righting herself again after having been tempest-tossed and almost sunk, or a delirious man coming back to life from the brink of death?'—'True,' he replied, 'everything has fallen out as you said three years ago, but no signs of recovery can yet be seen.'—'You will see them just as you have seen the rest,' I replied. He went away, and I afterwards came home at eleven.

I hear that M. Lally has said he will not be able to receive visitors this evening or to-morrow for the King's name-day feast, as he intends to join the camp to-morrow and that M. Leyrit has been ordered to receive them. I shall see what happens to-morrow morning.

*Monday, August 25.*¹—I went to the Fort to pay my respects to M. Lally the General and M. Leyrit, the Governor, for the King's name-day, but M. Lally had gone to the Olukarai garden with the Padré Bishop Noronha, having ordered M. Leyrit to celebrate the occasion with two salutes. At nine o'clock M. Leyrit, the Governor, the councillors and the King's men present here went to the Fort church to

¹ 13th *Avani*, *Vikrama*.

hear mass. It is usual to burn incense and give offerings, and fire a salute half-way through mass and another at the end; when Sacrament is blessed, another salute is fired. Thus it is usual to fire three salutes. According to custom, a salute was fired to-day during mass, and incense was burnt; but that was all. After mass, all returned to the *Gouvernement* where a small table was set with food. All ate a little, and then, pouring liquor from bottles, they drank, thrice shouting '*Vive le roi*, Long live the King,' under a salute. The festival was celebrated last year by M. Lally when soldiers and officers were drawn up, the *tambour* beat, and three salutes were fired while the men uncovered. But this year, as M. Leyrit celebrated the festival though M. Lally is here, and as the soldiers are not to uncover to him, all the formalities were not observed.

I paid my respects to M. Leyrit, the Governor, with a bouquet. He took off his hat and saluted me respectfully and cheerfully. Kandappa Mudali and others were much surprised at such a salute, as they knew what our relations had been. I came home at eleven.

At two o'clock this afternoon I heard that M. Lally had returned after dining at the Olukarai garden.