

# ÂNANDA RANGA PILLAI'S DIARY.

JANUARY 1760.

*Wednesday, January 2.*<sup>1</sup>—At one o'clock this morning, Tândava Chetti and five or six Kammâlas came and said, 'The procession of the God Vîrabhadra<sup>2</sup> which was omitted is now to be held, and we have been sent to inform you of it.' I replied, 'Why do you interfere in this? Such things ought to be reported by the Nayinâr, and you have nothing to do with them. When the Vêdapuri Îswaran temple was demolished<sup>3</sup> during the English troubles in the year *Vibhava*,<sup>4</sup> M. Dupleix summoned me and said, "You and the St. Paul's priests are always at variance about this temple, and consequently you are unable to do what your religion enjoins. I have therefore ordered its demolition. As regards your other temples, you are at liberty to celebrate the usual festivals according to your religion."

*Thursday, January 3.*<sup>5</sup>—There was no council to-day.

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<sup>1</sup> 22nd Mârgali, Pramâdhi.

<sup>2</sup> A form of Siva much worshipped in South India. He appears robed in a tiger-skin and dripping with blood, at Elephanta and Ellora. He is said to have sprung from the mouth of Siva to drive men and gods from the horse-sacrifice of Daksha.

<sup>3</sup> Cf. vol. v, p. 295, etc.

<sup>4</sup> 1748-1749.

<sup>5</sup> 23rd Mârgali, Pramâdhi.

M. Moracin, who was despatched to Bunder with troops, could not remain there, because it had been taken by the English, and went to Ganjam. But being unable to maintain himself there either, he departed, leaving 300 soldiers behind, who returned here to-day by a hired ship as they had been unable to get even *conjee* water to drink there.<sup>1</sup>

*Monday, January 7.*<sup>2</sup>—At seven o'clock this morning, I went to M. [Le] Verrier's<sup>3</sup> house. He advanced to meet me and embracing me, paid his joyful compliments. He then asked me to sit and said, 'Since my arrival here a month ago, I have been anxious to see you, although you were not. You have been an old friend of mine ever since M. Lenoir's time. Your measures to conquer Nâsîr Jang and management of affairs in M. Duplex' time, were praised and admired as far as Delhi, and awakened in me a desire of meeting you which has now been fulfilled. What can I say of the difference between the state of the town, the prosperity of the people, and the conduct of Governor and council in M. Lenoir's time and now? When, in M. Lenoir's time, it was

<sup>1</sup> Cf. vol. xi, p. 456 and n. 1 *supra*.

<sup>2</sup> 27th *Mârgali*, *Pramâdhî*.

<sup>3</sup> He had long remained in charge of the factory at Surat; but was apparently superseded there by a Company's servant called Brompt. (*Lettres et Conventions*, p. 285). He came out as *commis* in 1726.

reported 1,500 looms were at work, it was ordered that they should be increased to 2,000; but now this large town has not even 100. What is the use of fighting if trade declines like this? I have never seen or heard of such a state of things as prevails. You won great glory in M. Duplex' time by conquering Nâsîr Jang and managing affairs; but in spite of this, a single error<sup>1</sup> has lost you the management of the country and has brought all this on you. You must be to blame.'—'True,' I replied; 'but everything is the work of the times.' He continued, 'You are my old friend and as you served under M. Lenoir, you know everything, so I want to talk to you. Please don't avoid my company, but come every four or five days to talk with me. You have no equal in intelligence. M. Boyelleau has spoken to me about the mint affair, and I will discuss it in council. You need not urge me, for your affairs are as mine.' We conversed thus for about three hours. He then said that it was late and that he must attend the council, so I rose and thanked him. When I took leave, he accompanied me to the door, and offered me his compliments. I then came home.

<sup>1</sup> I do not know to what he alludes.

