

ORDINARY, MS.

Public	DEPARTMENT.
G.O., DATED	21-10-91
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INDEXED.*When given for copying*

[Despatch Abstract.]

*Recently under receipt
from the Govt of India
by means of a report on
the ancient records of
the Madras Govt by Mr
H. W. Forrest—*

NOTE FOR THE

was impossible to get any trace
of the Fort St David documents,
for these were called for by him
only after he was told by Mr. [unclear]
that they contained the substance
of Clive's letters. As to the words
discovered in a corner of the
office, I submit that no signi-
ficance was meant to be
attached to them, there being
no end of corners in this
building in which records
must necessarily find a place.

Further C.S. ¹⁰/_{8/10}
The Fort St. David
~~documents~~^{records} are now in
hand in an amiable
No action ^{at present} required
necessary on the
General's report.

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Public & ^{the} ~~the~~ ^{bundles} ~~the~~ were searched
& a few original letters of
Clive were found, along with
a plan of the battle of Plassey.
After a further search Mr. Dr.
told Mr. Forrest that it was no
likely that any more of Clive's
original letters would be found,
& drew his attention to the fact
that the substance of many of
Clive's letters were to be found in
the Fort St. David Consultation
Mr. Forrest who was then en-
gaged in examining the Public
& Privy Couns. wished to know
where the Fort St. David Couns.
were & he was shown the place
in a corner of the house. These
rooms, where they were carefully
wrapped up & put away, though
not in a separate room. If
Mr. Forrest had properly called
for these books at the outset
they would have been given
him at once, but he seemed
to attach so much importance
to the original letters of Clive,
that the first few days were
mainly taken up in the search
for them. Mr. Forrest would,
therefore, seem to have had the
difficulty in finding Clive's original
letters in his mind, when he
said that "for many days it

With reference to the words of Mr. Forrest about what you have called for an explanation, I beg to state that, as far as I remember what Mr. O'ruz, the Clerk in attendance on Mr. Forrest, told me of the circumstances connected with the search for papers on Mr. Forrest's first visit to this office, the documents first called for related to the Expedition to Bengal & when they were found, Mr. Forrest said he would particularly like to have all papers relating to the early Settlement of Bengal & Clive's letters about the Siege of Arcot. He did not at first expressly call for the Fort St. David Convent.

Mr. O'ruz furnished Mr. Forrest with a good deal of information relating to Bengal found in the Sundry Books, the Pub. Convent & the Despatches from England, as well as with Clive's correspondence contained in the Sundry Books.

A great deal of time was also spent by Mr. O'ruz in searching the land for original letters of Clive which Mr. Forrest particularly asked for as he wished to introduce facsimiles of the handwriting & signature in his compilation.

MEMORANDUM.

MADRAS RECORDS.

The muniments at the Madras Central Record Office are of unusual interest and importance. The most ancient Record relating to the British Empire in the East is a letter dated 26th July 1630, preserved in the archives of the Bombay Record Office. The most ancient muniment in the Madras Record Office is a letter dated 1670. The first volume examined by me were letters received during the year 1678-79 at Fort St. George. The condition of the paper is so bad and the ink has so spread, that I found it almost impossible to decipher it. There are some important letters from Bengal.

1862. An important Letter-book, paper decayed, ink has spread. No binding. Letter from Dacca. Important. Letter from Surat. To Child, 25th April 1682.

As the primary object of my visit to Madras was to examine all the papers relating to Clive, I first asked for all records relating to Fort St. David, as Clive's earliest service was in that Settlement. For many days it was impossible to get any trace of these documents, but, shortly before my departure, a few volumes were discovered in a corner of the office. They consist both of Letter-books and Consultation-books. The first Letter-book contains despatches to the Court from 17th October 1746 to 17th December 1748. In one of the letters we have an announcement of the arrival of Colonel Stringer Lawrence, one of the earliest and most illustrious of our Indian heroes.

"Fort St. David, February 13th, 1747. By the *Winchester*, which arrived here the 13th ultimo, came Stringer Lawrence Esq., whom your Honour appointed to be Major of the Forces on this Coast. On the 18th the Military Forces of the Garrison were drawn up, at the head of which he was presented with a Commission.

"Your Honours direct that, in regard to Major Lawrence's allowances, they be on the same footing as Major Knipe enjoyed. We must take the liberty to acquaint you that that gentleman having borrowed money of the Company in England and dying soon after his arrival in Madras he received no pay there, nor can we get certain information of what was to be allowed him. We have, therefore, settled his salary as Major at £300 per annum, and pagodas 50 per month for other allowances, besides £70 per annum as third in Council, which we hope Your Honours will approve of; and we must assure you he takes a great deal of pains in training up the Military and making the several dispositions necessary; already this Garrison is in better order than could well be expected, considering the short time that gentleman has been with us."

"As our enemies are furnished with a troop of horse, by which they have greatly the advantage of us in sending out parties thereof, that make frequent incursions near our limits and the adjacent villages, we have thought it absolutely necessary, with the opinion of Major Lawrence and several of the officers, to raise a troop also in your service, and have granted commissions to Lieutenant Gringins and Mr. Hallyburton to act as Lieutenants, and one to Ensign Cheesborough to be a Cornett, these being the properest persons. We

have only been able to provide horses and accoutrements for 30 men, but we daily expect more horses from the country, and hope, in a short time, to make up this number, one hundred."

The following relates to Major Lawrence being taken prisoner at the attempt to capture Fort Areacopang (1748):—

"As soon as our forces were landed from the fleet they immediately encamped to the eastward of the garden-house, where they continued till all the baggage and the train was landed, when Your Honours' troops under the command of Major Lawrence joined them, and the 8th ultimo they set out for Pondicherry, but were obliged to make very short marches on account of their baggage; that it was the 12th before they got to a small fort of the enemy's, named Areacopang, about three miles to the southward of Pondicherry, which was so well fortified by fascine batteries and other works they had thrown up there that it was the 19th before they got possession thereof. Whilst they were before this place the enemy one morning attacked our trenches, upon which our people gave way, and very unfortunately our brave Major and one Captain Bruce, of the Independent Companies, by their people leaving them, were made prisoners; and we should have suffered considerably had not Captain Holland (from whom we are afraid we shall have no more service this season as he has received a musket shot in his shoulder) with a great deal of briskness rallied our people, who, upon giving one smart fire, drove the enemy quite away and took several prisoners. We have since received a letter from the Major who says he received no hurt in the action and that they met with extreme good treatment. We have also been so unfortunate as to lose Mr. John Hallyburton to whom, as we before acquainted Your Honours, we had given a Commission to be Lieutenant of the Troop of Horse, and of which he was very deserving, for he took infinite trouble in disciplining the troop, and shewed himself very active in the field. It was by one of our sepoys that he had the misfortune to be killed, who shot him upon his reprimanding him for some offence, of which the poor gentleman died the next day, and the villain did not live so long, for his comrades that stood by him cut him to pieces immediately. When we had got possession of Areacopang, after a stay there of a few days they marched round to the westward and are since gone to the northward, where they are landing their heavy Artillery and carrying on their approaches."

The Honourable Board give the following cogent reasons to their masters for not obeying their orders with regard to the prohibition of allowing any Roman Catholic Church on the Settlement.

"Your Honours' orders relating to our suffering a Romish Church or their priests within our bounds should have been immediately put in execution, but after some consideration we found it would be attended with very ill consequences at this juncture, having 529 Topasses in garrison; and were we to turn the two priests out not one would remain with us, and we beg leave to advise Your Honours the Officers assure us they behaved very well in all the actions against the enemy, particularly in the last at Cuddalore, of which Major Lawrence was an eye-witness, and it was his opinion (although he is not here to confirm it) that we ought not to run the risk of losing such a part of the garrison, whom we think must be attached to this place by living long in it and the greatest part of them having families here. We have not lost one by desertion, which could not have been prevented from some of the outposts had they been so inclined. The enemy at Pondicherry would have gladly received them, which would have distressed us very much; upon the whole, we hope we shall not be censured for

not complying with this order, as we are of opinion it would have proved of the highest ill consequences to have put the same in execution at this juncture, when we are much in want of men. But as soon as we are furnished with a sufficient number of Europeans we shall not then hesitate at putting your orders into immediate execution."

In the next letter mention is again made of Major Lawrence being made prisoner, and the attempt made to exchange him.

"In our letter by the *Benjamin* of the 2nd September a triplicate of which we now enclose, we acquainted Your Honours of the misfortune we had met with in losing our Major, who was taken prisoner by the enemy at Areacopang, as also of the fate poor Mr. Hallyburton met with. In the several skirmishes since with the enemy, Lieutenant Browne of the Bengal detachment has been killed and Ensign Wright of the Bombay detachment, and by the enclosed return you will observe the number of men we have lost on this expedition. There is an exchange of prisoners on foot between the General and M. Dupleix who is very ready to exchange all but Major Lawrence, as he is justly well acquainted with the use that gentleman is of to us; but as the General has returned him for answer that, unless he is exchanged, none of the rest shall but be sent to Europe, we hope that may have an effect upon him and induce him to favour us with the Major again. Captain Morgan having laid down on account of his age and infirmities, Captain Holland acts at present as Commandant, being pretty well recovered of the wound he received at Areacopang.

The next series of letters examined by me were Public England, 16th January 1748 to 12th February 1749. The following extracts show that these letters throw light on the history and usages of the time.

In the first letter we are informed of the news of the cessation of arms and the restoration of the prisoners, including Major Lawrence.

"The day after the receipt of the news of the cessation of arms, &c., and His Majesty's Proclamation thereof, General Boscawen sent an answer of the same to M. Dupleix, whereupon Major Lawrence and Captain Bruce that was taken prisoner with him, were permitted to give their paroles and come hither, and upon the arrival of the *Favourite* with them, the 7th instant, who brought a confirmation of the same, all the prisoners they had there belonging to us were sent hither, and the Major has again taken charge of the Garrison which we had delivered to Captain Holland as being the oldest officer (Captain Morgan having laid down the service on account of age and infirmities) and constituted him Commandant, at the same allowances as were granted to Captain Gibson, but he having now delivered up the same again and there being at present no prospect of any further action here, he purposes to proceed to Bengal by the first conveyance that offers to take the command of the Company Your Honours have ordered him there. The vacancy made by Captain Morgan we filled up with Mr. William Henry Southby, who was a Lieutenant of Marines in His Majesty's Service, upon the General's recommendation of him for the same, and that made by Captain Gringins being appointed of the Troop of Horse, as Mr. John Serimsam was the next Senior Officer, we gave him the Company, but with this proviso that should Your Honours not think proper to continue the troop, he should resign the same to Captain Gringins again, and in his room have appointed Mr. James Cope, a Lieutenant as well as Adjutant as an encouragement for the pains he takes in disciplining the Military, and we are informed that is

the post he bore when in His Majesty's Service; being in need also of an officer that had some knowledge in the Train duty, we have given a Commission to one Peter Nost, who bore the station of a Bombardier in His Majesty's Train of Artillery, and has been bred up in that branch from his infancy, though at present he acts as an Ensign of the Military, but we purpose shortly to remove him to our Train of Artillery and make him a Lieutenant, which, we hope, will meet with Your Honour's approbation.

"As the private men that were in Cuddalore, when it was attacked by the enemy, all behaved very well, and it was probable we should soon after have an occasion to try them again, to encourage them to act in like manner we made them a present of a couple of sheets each; and no fault having been found with the sepoys that were there, and the heads of them we presented a few yards of broadcloth, and to their people to the value of a rupee each, and a turban or sash."

The following is a notice of the raising of the first troop of cavalry in the Madras Presidency.

"Of our having raised a Troop of Horse in Your Honour's service you have already been acquainted with, and we must now assure you that we find it of infinite service as it is to be relied on, which cannot be said of any peons that can be hired, and the number of them that we were obliged to keep before (the expenses of which will fully discharge that of the troop), we shall shortly dismiss, as we have found them of very little service on the late expedition, and had we been without the troop we should have laboured under great inconveniences, which will, in case of any stoppages of goods going or coming from the country, soon remove the cause and more expeditiously than any peons. Therefore we hope Your Honours will think proper to continue the same; General Boscawen is of opinion also that the continuing the same will be more for your interest than a number of peons (which must be done if the troop is abolished), having but a very mean opinion of those people from what he saw of them on the expedition. He has also been so kind as to give us his advice concerning the establishment thereof, which we have followed, as Your Honours will observe by our consultations. Cons. 24th October. The cost of the horses that have been bought for the same amounts to nineteen thousand four hundred and twelve pagodas, six fanams and fifty-five cash, 19,412-6-55."

The next passage refers to the capture of Madras by LaBourdonnai, and its restoration to us by the Peace of Aix-la Chapelle (1749).

"As we imagine an address by the way of *Bussorah* may possibly reach Your Honours before any of the shipping that will proceed for Europe next month, we therefore now despatch this to Bombay, to be forwarded from thence by the first opportunity, and have the great satisfaction to acquaint Your Honours that General Boscawen took possession of Fort St. George on the 21st instant, which occasions universal joy among the late inhabitants of that place, who thronged there in great numbers immediately on hoisting the English Flag, though all the art the French made use of could not induce them to return while they were in possession, and the attachment they now show to the English gives them no little mortification. The condition we have received it in is, indeed, very indifferent, the French having undermined the fortifications and rifled it of all the useful and valuable stores, the particulars of which we shall transmit Your Honours with our next advices."

The Board proceed to mention that, owing to the ambition and intrigues of

Dupleix the Settlements of the Company derived "too little advantage from the Peace."

"By the Hon'ble Rear Admiral Boscawen, who purposes to leave us tomorrow, you will receive this address, and it gives us the greatest concern to think that we should have occasion to represent to you that, notwithstanding the Peace concluded between His Majesty and the King of France, your Settlements on this Coast are far from feeling its good effects; nay, on the contrary, are more embroiled than they were even during the War, all owing to the wiles and artifices of Monsieur Dupleix, the French Company's Governor of Pondicherry, who has so bitter an enmity to the English as not to be able to refrain from showing it by committing acts of hostility in an underhand manner, though he will not venture to declare openly against us, as Your Honours will see by the following sketch of his late proceedings.

"No sooner was M. Dupleix certain that the preliminary articles of the Peace were certified, and he freed from any apprehensions he might be under of an attack, but one Chunda Saib (formerly a Moors General who, upon the Nabob, his master, being defeated, had retired into the mountains and there lived in obscurity, and whose family had taken refuge in Pondicherry and were in that place during the whole time of the seige) began raising men in the country to endeavour to dispossess Anaverdy Cawn, the then Nabob, and get the Government of the Province for himself; M. Dupleix pretended to have no concern in the matter, but sent out all the sepoys in the French pay to join Chunda Saib under the colour of discharging them to lessen their expenses, and the men engaging them to serve him. But when affairs were brought to a crisis the mask was thrown off, and he publicly avowed the cause of Chunda Saib, and sent out 900 of the best Europeans in the Garrison of Pondicherry, with a detachment of Artillery to join him as auxiliaries.

"Soon after this junction Chunda Saib forced the Nabob to a battle, wherein by the assistance of the French who gave the turn of the scale, the Nabob himself was killed, and his whole army defeated, the consequence of which has been Chunda Saib taking upon him the Government of this Province as Nabob by an illegal Firmaund procured from Mustapha Jung without the knowledge or consent of Nazir Jung.

"The first act he did after arriving at this dignity was the recompensing his good allies by granting them 42 villages of the Villanour Country, which lay all round this Settlement, and, by way of reward to M. Dupleix in particular, the following towns and their revenues have been given to him and his relations, viz. :—

Corbelong to M. Dupleix.
Porto Novo to Madame Dupleix.
Atempara to Monsieur D'Antel, his brother-in-law.
St. Thome to Padrie D'la' Purification, a relation of
Madame Dupleix.

"So that we are surrounded in such a manner as for the French to have it entirely in their power to stop our trade or debar us from any supplies of provisions from the country, and we have great reason to believe, from what has already happened, they will not be wanting to make use of this advantage. For the Padrie's zeal being either warmer than the other, or his prudence less, could not help discovering himself by forbidding, on the severest penalties, any sort of refreshments going to Madras through or out of his dependencies, and by insulting us in other respects, insomuch that at last we were obliged to apply to General Boscawen for his assistance, who immediately sent and took the Padrie prisoner, and is bringing him to England to be disposed of as His Majesty shall think proper."

The following refers to the efforts made by the Board to fortify Fort St. George.

"We have completed the stone-work on the north side of the fort and about half finished the lunette to the east and west, the latter of which is now proceeding on in a gradual manner, and we judge the completing of them and filling up the covered way will be sufficient to employ our workmen till we have the pleasure to receive your further commands on this head, and, in the interim, have only to assure you that the constant and sincere regard we have always had for Your Honours' interest will oblige us still to continue our utmost care and industry to prevent putting you to the least unnecessary expense in all the progress we may make herein.

The Board then proceed to shew the wretched condition in which Madras was restored to the English.

"Your Honours have been already informed in an address we made you overland, the 30th August, that your Settlement of Fort St. George was restored to us on the 21st of that month, we have, therefore, here only to acquaint you that the condition in which it was delivered was so extremely bad that we apprehend it will require to be entirely new fortified, all the walls and bastions being undermined in such a manner that they must, in all probability, fall down in the ensuing monsoon, and it is represented by His Majesty's Engineers and all the bricklayers that they are no ways to be repaired, neither are they in the least capable of bearing any cannon upon them, on which last circumstances we have been obliged so far to deviate from your directions, as to permit a platform that was begun by the French to be finished, as we are informed it tends greatly to the present security of the place, and we hope Your Honours will not be displeased thereat, as we conceived it to be absolutely necessary. As our Engineer is gone, we cannot at this time send you a plan thereof, but will endeavour to get one prepared with an estimate of the expense in readiness to send by the January ship."

The following extract relates to a quarrel which took place between Clive and the Revd. Francis Fordyce. There is no mention of this quarrel in the biographies of Clive. It is possible that the account of a quarrel between Clive and an officer is a distorted version of this affair. Mill states that at Madras: "His turbulence, though he was not ill natured, engaged him in quarrels with his equals." The Board at St. David, however, remark: "Lest the same should be to Mr. Clive's prejudice, we think it not improper to assure you that he is generally esteemed a very quiet person, and no ways guilty of disturbances."

"A complaint having been brought before us by Mr. Francis Fordyce for an assault that was made on him by Mr. Robert Clive, a due enquiry was made by us into the same, in the course of which it appearing that Mr. Fordyce had given great provocation for such proceeding by having frequently scandalized his character in a most insufferable manner; and being further acquainted that he had, at several times, taken great liberties in his conversation in making use of many unbecoming reflections on the President and all the Members of the Board. In consequence of this his aggression and disrespect, together with the many instances we have had of his insolent and meddling disposition, we came to a resolution of suspending him Your Honours' Service; and besides the reasons already given for our so doing we might still add that he was in general remarked to be extremely negligent, remiss in the several duties of his functions, particularly in the burial of the soldiers and seamen, which part of his office he

scarce ever attended, notwithstanding he had been twice or thrice rebuked by the President for not doing, and which neglect had at length begun to create great discontent in our Military. We therefore presume that, upon a due consideration of all these circumstances, Your Honours will concur with us in the measures we have taken herein, in which dependance we shall only add, as it is not to be doubted that Mr. Fordyce will set forth his own story to Your Honours, and lest the same should be to Mr. Clive's prejudice, we think it not improper to assure you that he is generally esteemed a very quiet person, and no ways guilty of disturbances."

The following extract relates to the attempts made to form an effective Company of Artillery.

"The Company of Artillery remains as yet very incomplete; having found it very difficult to procure persons qualified for that service, we endeavoured all we could to prevail on those in His Majesty's Train to enter with us, and as a great encouragement to induce them thereto, we agreed, as the pay directed in your new Regulations was somewhat less than is allowed in His Majesty's service, to allow 4 per diem more to each gunner, and to give one shilling per diem to all Matrosses, but all would not tempt them and not above twenty-six came over to us.

"Upon the strenuous advice and recommendation of Major Lawrence for the still continuing some of our Topasses in the service, in order to relieve the Europeans from duty in the violent heat of the day, we have therefore, for that reason, as likewise upon consideration of the small strength of our Garrison, been constrained for the present to deviate from Your Honours' directions therein, and have accordingly entertained them at 10 per diem, which the Major judges to be a proportionable pay to the Europeans till you are pleased to direct the contrary."

The Government of Fort St. David express an opinion that instead of Madras remaining a Subordinate Settlement it should be made again "the Presidency."

"Since our last address to Your Honours, under the 18th ultimo, by Admiral Boscawen, finding ourselves in a quiet and undisturbed possession of Fort St. George, and judging that it will be again a place of great trade and business, and that an investment may be shortly commenced, provided proper encouragement is given to the merchants and inhabitants of that place, we have taken into consideration the directions Your Honours were pleased to give us thereon in looking upon that place as a Subordinate Settlement till further orders, and to send such persons there as are necessary to invite and encourage trade, and accordingly, in consultation, we appointed Mr. Richard Prince, Deputy Governor, Mr. Ricnard Starkie, second, Mr. John Smith, third, Mr. William Smith King, fourth, and Mr. John Walsh, fifth of Council, who will proceed for Madras soon after this ship's despatch.

"As Fort St. George is much better situated for despatch of business of all kinds than this place, we take the liberty of recommending it to Your Honours to make that place again the Presidency."

The next volumes I examined were those containing the Consultations held at Fort St. David.

Fort St. David, February 1748-49.—"A letter from Mr. Robert Clive read, as entered hereafter, setting forth that, as he is informed the Revd.

Mr. Fordyce, some days since, preferred a complaint to the Board against him, he therefore requests they will examine into the cause of the said complaint for his justification, whereupon the Secretary is ordered to summon the Revd Mr. Fordyce to attend on Friday next, at 9 o'clock in the forenoon, when it is agreed to hold a Consultation to examine into this affair, and that he bring with him such persons as he thinks necessary, to prove what he has to allege against Mr. Clive, who is also ordered to give his attendance at that time.

"I have been informed that the Revd. Mr. Fordyce, some days ago, preferred a complaint against me to Your Honours, &c., &c., this therefore is to request that Your Honours, &c., will be pleased to examine into the cause of the said complaint for the justification of

FORT: Your most obedient humble servant,
28th February 1748-9. ROBERT CLIVE.

"To the HON'BLE CHARLES FLAYER, ESQ.,
President and Governor, &c., Council, Fort St. David.

Mr Clive's deposition.

That being at dinner with Messrs. Dalton and Worth on or about the 16th day of February, at Bandipollam, they told him Mr. Fordyce had said to a gentleman in public company that he was a scoundrel and a coward, and that he had shook his cane over him in the presence of Mr. Levy Moses. Mr. Clive further says that, some time before this, he had been informed by Captain Cape that Mr. Fordyce did, in conversation with him, threaten to break every bone in his skin, and he says that these repeated abuses so irritated him that he could not forbear, on meeting Mr. Fordyce in Cuddalore, to reproach him with his behaviour, which he told him was so injurious he could bear it no longer, and thereupon struck him two or three times with his cane, which at last Mr. Fordyce returned and then closed in with him, but that they were presently parted by Captain Lucas, who happened to be by. Mr. Clive further observes that he is not the only person who has been abused and calumniated by Mr. Fordyce, who had also aspersed the character of Mr. Joseph Fowke by saying he was a dark designing villain, that he would slit his nose the first time he met him, and that he had knocked him under the table at the Governor's. He further says, Mr. Fordyce had told Captain Dalton at Mr. Beloches's that if everybody would discourse the Governor in the manner he had done it would alter affairs greatly, and that he had talked to him till he made him quake or shake in his shoes, or words to that effect. Mr. Clive also says, Mr. Lindsay told him he had heard Mr. Fordyce say that Mr. Bulkley was a scoundrel and a coward, and that he had shook his cane at him as he had done at Mr. Clive. Mr. Clive further says he threatened to thrash Mr. Bouchier, and that he had declared to several people he had taken away gentlemen's swords before now, and would pull off his canonicals at any time to do himself justice, and lastly, Mr. Clive says, Mr. Lennox told him that Mr. Fordyce was generally shunned and detested, both at St. Helena and the West Coast, on account of his meddling disposition, which rendered him disagreeable and obnoxious to every one.

ROBERT CLIVE."

"A letter from Mr. Robert Clive read setting forth that as the Revd. Mr. Fordyce, whose malicious deposition (*sic*) is well known, may endeavour all in his power to misrepresent him to his Hon'ble Masters at home, he therefore

desires that we (who are the best judges of his behaviour) will represent him in such light that he may not suffer in their good opinion, which it's agreed to comply with, being well convinced that Mr. Clive is not at all addicted to creating disputes, but of a quiet disposition."

The following extract notes the resignation of his Commission by Clive:—

Mr. Clive appointed Steward.

"Mr. Robert Clive having returned a few days past from Fort St. George whither his Quarter Master's employ obliged him to proceed with the Commissary's, his travelling charges are therefore ordered to be paid, and as he is desirous of resigning his Commission, and being entertained in some Civil employ it's agreed that he be appointed Steward, and to take charge of that post the 1st of next month, and that Messrs. Westcott and Wynch, accompanied by Messrs. Smith and Clive, examine the account, remains of provisions, and garrison stores, and report to us the condition they may find them in."

Minutes of Consultation at Fort St. David, 16th March 1746-47.

"Mr. Robert Clive having behaved as a volunteer in the late engagement and requesting to be entertained an Ensign, the same is granted him, and a Commission ordered to be drawn out accordingly."

Extract of letter from the Council at Fort St. George to the Council at Fort St. David, dated 31st January 1751-52.

"In our letter of the 21st instant we informed Your Honours, &c., of the Deputy Governor's having wrote to Captain Kilpatrick for a particular account of the disbursements for all the money he has drawn on us; in answer to which he informs the Deputy Governor that he has passed his accounts with Captain Clive to the time that he marched for Conjiveram, and that as his accounts since are not properly stated, and he is now moving to Wandawash, he hopes you will please to excuse his not sending them until his return to Arcot."

Extract of letter from the Council at Fort St. George to the Council at Fort St. David, dated 24th February 1751-52.

"Yesterday morning we received your favour of the 19th instant by the Sloop *Fortune*, on which came Captain Chase, who landed soon after with the party of men under his command, and in the evening marched out in order to join Captain Clive, who was at Warrapancam. By a letter the Deputy Governor received yesterday from him, and he writes, further, that the enemy upon his approach retired with great precipitation to Chingleput. We have sent out Mr. Hinchley to join Captain Clive in order to his proceeding to Arcot to supply the place of Mr. Wilson."

The following extract from a Consultation, dated 22nd July 1751, notes the restoration of Clive to the army:—

MONDAY, 22ND JULY 1751.

At a Consultation

PRESENT:

THOMAS SAUNDERS, ESQ., *Governor and President.*

RICHARD STARKIE.

CHARLES BODDAM.

HENRY POWNEY.

GEORGE PIGOT.

ALEXANDER WYNCH.

MR. ROBINS (SICK).

"Mr. Robert Clive who has lately been very serviceable in conducting several parties to camp, offering to go without any consideration of pay, provided we will give him a Brevet to entitle him to the rank of a Captain, as he was an Officer at the siege of Pondicherry and almost the whole time of the War, and distinguished himself on many occasions, it is conceived that this Officer may be of some service, and, therefore, now ordered that a Brevet be drawn out and given him."

The following extracts deal with the services of Clive during the famous relief of Arcot.

Monday, the 19th August.—"The Board being of opinion that a diversion in the Arcot country will oblige the enemy to withdraw part of their forces from Trinchinopoly and put it in our power to attempt something that way, now agree that Captain Clive be sent with a party of all the Europeans we can possibly spare and some sepoys for this purpose, and that he proceed on the *Wager* to Fort St. George, where he is to be reinforced by all the men they can any ways furnish, and march immediately towards Arcot, and the President is now desired to write to the Deputy Governor to acquaint him with the intent of their coming, and to recommend it to him to despatch letters to the several Killadars, &c., to engage them to bring in their troops to his assistance, and to forward the design all in their power.

29th August 1751.—"The President acquaints the Board that a consideration that many accidents with regard to the party gone out with Captain Clive might require immediate orders, he has desired Mr. Prince to give them on any such occasion, without waiting for directions from hence, as a delay of that sort might be of the worst consequence. The Board concurring in this opinion cannot but approve the step he has taken.

4th September 1751.—"The President lays before the Board the letters from Captain Clive, the first of which advises that he entered the Fort of Arcot and hoisted the Nabob's colours there, the 1st instant, without any opposition. That the merchants and inhabitants expressed a great deal of satisfaction on his arrival. That he has a prospect of succeeding in our design and bringing the greatest part of the country to Mahomed Ally, that he shall lay in as large a stock of provisions as he can procure in the Fort, which he shall then be able to defend against a considerable force. The second advises that many of the Killadars have offered to admit him into their forts, and the country in general has declared for Mahomed Ally, that he hears a few horse and foot are getting together near him and intends to march out and disperse them. That he shall proceed to Vellore to sound the inclinations of the Killadar there, and if he finds him in the enemy's interest, use his utmost endeavours by promises and menaces to bring him over to ours, as he has a large body

of troops in his service, and will therefore be a vast support to whichever side he takes.

Thursday, 12th September.—"The President lays before the Board a letter from Captain Clive, dated 7th instant, advising that finding the Killadar of Timmerie was in the enemy's interest he marched out the 3rd instant with a part of his forces to frighten him into terms. That on the road a body of Horse and Foot with a few French Coffrees and two pieces of cannon met him. But he soon obliged them to give way; that the Foot retreated to the Fort and the Horse got into topes about it; that thinking it imprudent with his small party to attempt anything against the Fort with so considerable a body of the enemy about it, he returned to Arcot, and on the 5th marched out again with a larger force; that he then found the Horse and Foot drawn up in a tope with a piece of cannon to oppose him, but he soon drove them from that post and from a steep bank to which they retreated; in doing this he had 3 Europeans killed and 2 wounded. The enemy hereupon got into the fort, and he went close to the walls, and sent a threatening message to the Killadar, which was not regarded; he then threw several shells into it, but this also had no effect as Chunda Saib's son-in-law was come to his assistance with a 1,000 foot, upon which, finding it impossible to compass his ends, he returned to Arcot. That the Killadars are most of them gone over to the enemy's side, perceiving that our force is not so formidable as they at first apprehended. That flying parties of horse are continually scouring all round him which prevents his getting in provisions so fast as he could wish, and that he has not been able to collect a Fanam of contributions owing to the disaffection of the people and the want of a capable Black fellow to manage them.

30th September 1751.—"The President acquaints the Board that Captains Richards and Kilpatrick and Captain Lieutenant Murray, arriving from Camp some days ago, were immediately put under arrest to be sent to Europe agreeably to our Resolution; but Captain Richards is since dead, and Captain Lieutenant Murray found means, the 24th instant, to make his escape to Pondicherry, where it is said he has got a commission.

"He also informs them that, agreeable to his orders mentioned in last Consultation, Lieutenant Innis arrived from Camp yesterday with a party of one hundred and thirty men. As the *Lancaster* is going to Madras in a day or two, agreed that they be sent on her and the President is desired to write to the Deputy Governor to acquaint him of it, and to direct him, in case Captain Clive should be in want of a reinforcement, to send him the necessary assistance.

7th October.—"A petition from Captain James Kilpatrick read as entered hereafter, setting forth the deep concern he is under from the imprudent step he has taken, and promising, if we will grant him pardon, to behave in future to our satisfaction, Mr. Eyles at the same time soliciting in his behalf and acquainting the Board that he has talked with him on the subject, and finds him so thoroughly convinced of his error that he could venture to answer for his future behaviour. Thereupon the Members of the Board, except Mr. Pigot, were of opinion that the rigorous measures we have taken on this occasion and the arrest Captain Kilpatrick has been under for some time, will be a means to discourage anything of the like nature hereafter. It is therefore agreed that Mr. Eyles' request be complied with and pardon granted Captain Kilpatrick, but that he be called before us and severely reprimanded for his offence, and told that we expect the favour we have shewn him will engage him to avoid an error of the like nature hereafter, and to behave in a manner suitable to the station he bears.

"The President acquaints the Board that Captain Clive writes him he has had several skirmishes with the enemy, killed a great many of them and spiked

up some of their cannon, but that they have now gathered about him in such numbers that he has no hopes with his small force of effecting anything more than keeping the Fort of Arcot, which he is in no doubt about as he has got three months' provisions in it. Agreed, therefore, that the party we sent to Madras on the *Lancaster* be ordered to join him with as many sepoys as can be got together there, and if after this he finds the enemy superior, we think it most prudent for him to return, as it will be only an unnecessary expense to maintain the Fort of Arcot if the whole country is in obedience to Chunda Saib and pays him the revenues, and the President is desired to give him orders to that effect.

21st October 1751.—"The President lays before the Board a letter from Captain Clive advising that he is invested in the Fort at Arcot, where the enemy are cannonading him. That unfortunately two of his 18-pounders are disabled by the shot from their battery; he was going to mount the last he has. That he has three months' provisions and thinks himself able to defend a breach should the enemy make one. His only apprehensions, therefore, are his peoples falling down through fatigue; that he thinks no less force than 1,000 Blacks and 200 Europeans can attempt to relieve him, as the enemy's situation is strong and their numbers increase daily; if, therefore, we cannot furnish such a body, he gives it as his opinion the place should be evacuated as soon as possible, as it must fall when his provisions are expended. Mr. Prince writing that if he can have fifty men more from hence he shall be able to send out the party Captain Clive thinks necessary. Ordered that number be immediately detached to Madras with some sepoys, and the President is desired to direct the Deputy Governor to despatch the reinforcement to Arcot as expeditiously as possible.

18th November 1751.—"Sundry letters received by the President from the Deputy Governor of the 13th, enclosing one from Captain Clive to himself of the 9th, and copy of one to the Deputy Governor of the 6th instant, giving a description of his situation, and that the enemy had made two large breaches in the walls which he was fortifying in the best manner he could, and was not under the least apprehension from them unless they should make a breach of one-half the Fort. That he had received a summons from young Chunda, to whom he returned an answer, and let him know that neither threats nor bribery should hinder him from doing his duty.

22nd November 1751.—"A letter received by the President from Captain Clive of the 13th advises the enemy's having early that morning attacked the breaches they had made and behaved with the greatest resolution, but as he had intelligence of their design and was prepared for them, after an action which lasted a full hour, they retreated with the loss of at least a hundred and fifty men and two Jemaidars of note. That the attack was made by the Coffrees and Blacks in general, who were intoxicated with arrack and opium. But he is of opinion the reception they met with will deter them from such attempts again, and they had left their camp and cannon with some baggage and a great quantity of grain. A letter of the 18th mentions his being in possession of the Forts of Timmerie, Colloway, and Coveree-Pauk, the Killadars of which were so intimidated at the repulse that had been given to young Chunda that they readily admitted our people within their gates, and at the former, where young Chunda had retired after his being defeated but retreated from very precipitately on Captain Clive's approach, he found a considerable body; that he intended proceeding in conjunction with the Morattas towards Velloore to endeavour to get some money of Moortas Ally. But does not design coming to any rupture with him, and only to prevail on him to espouse our cause.

25th November 1751.—"The President lays before the Board some letters received from Mr. Prince and Captain Clive of the 20th and 23rd giving an account that the Morattas had left us and were plundering the whole country, and it was reported that the French and Chunda's Agents were tampering with them about deserting our interest; that if it should prove so Captain Clive was of opinion he should be a match for them in the Field with Captain Kilpatrick's detachment, and in four days after had hopes of leaving Arcot Fort repaired and provisioned, when he intended to put also some Military and Sepoys into Timmerie, which is extremely strong, and that Mr. Prince judged a present to the Morattas at this juncture might be the means of securing them to us. But the Board being of a contrary opinion as it would have too great an appearance of our being principals in the matter, and will be leading our Hon'ble Masters into an expense, with but little hopes of gaining anything by it. It's therefore judged necessary for the present only to be upon our guard, and not put to much confidence in them; but that they may not think we treat them slightly a watch, a pair of *pistolls*, and a few such articles be sent the General with a letter of compliment.

2nd December 1751.—"Several letters received from Captains Clive and Kilpatrick. One of the 24th ultimo from the former advises that a party of Chunda's had surprized the Morattas in the night as they were returning to join him, and killed some of them, which he could not but look upon as a fortunate circumstance for us, as they are without doubt greatly exasperated at it, and all apprehensions are removed of their design to leave us; that he was in expectation of Boojangrow, the Moratta General, joining him that day, when he should set out for Velloore; and had information Morarey and the Mysore King's brother were on their march to Arcot with a large army. One from Captain Kilpatrick's of the 25th ultimo advises the receipt of Mr. Prince's letter mentioning the importance of Conjeeveram to us which both Captain Clive and himself who had consulted about it were well convinced of, but judged it an imprudent undertaking at this juncture, as the enemy were near and superior to them, and would have it in their power to raise the siege, which they must be obliged to carry on if they had any design to take the Pagoda, as the walls were very high and faced with stone, or else block up Arcot again. However, he only offers such as his sentiments on the occasion and will follow any orders he may receive on that head. He also gives information of the Morattas being returned, and that Captain Clive had marched with them that morning towards Velloore in hopes of meeting the enemy and bringing them to an action, in which should we meet with success he is of opinion they would abandon Conjeeveram.

9th December.—"Several letters received from Captain Clive read giving an account of his having made sundry efforts to meet the enemy and bring them to an action, and on the 2nd instant receiving advice that they had decamped and were proceeding to Aranie and had been joined near that place by 50 French, 200 Sepoys, and 300 Horse, he marched that evening and came up with them the next morning about 11 o'clock, and at 12 came to an engagement with them which lasted till 5 in the afternoon, when they were totally defeated; that they kept viewing our people at a distance till dark when they disbanded and young Chunda rode off with only 500 horse; that several others and sepoys had taken shelter that night in Aranie Fort, and that on threatening the Killadar he had promised to deliver up all Chunda's effects; that the Morattas have taken a great many horses, bullocks, &c., and he is well assured the enemy lost full a hundred men, and that our killed and wounded, Military and Sepoys, amount to only 22. That he is now in hopes of making further discoveries, and after he has settled matters there designs proceeding to Conjeeveram, and can

now retire with pleasure, having left Captain Kilpatrick the open country and no one to oppose him. From whence as it may be concluded that Captain Clive intended returning soon, it's thought proper to recommend to him not to be too hasty in that resolution, for though the enemy are now dispersed, as there are many forts in the country they can take refuge in, they will in all likelihood soon gather together again and annoy us especially if we should retire immediately, and the President is desired to write to Captain Clive on that subject.

23rd December 1751.—“Several letters received from Captain Clive of the 18th which give an account of his being in possession of Conjeeveram Pagoda, the enemy having abandoned it in the night, and though he had a strong party within sixty yards of the gate where they escaped, he knew nothing of it till above half an hour after they were gone, by reason of a high wall built before it for its defence, and mud bank behind which they made off; and received the first information from Messrs. Rewell and Glass, who had been most ignominiously treated by the Commanding Officer, that was a *Portuguese* and had once ordered Mr. Rewell to mount the breach to see if his presence would stop our fire, but he thought better of it.

“Further advising that the Morattas were gone quite off, and every one walked on foot for the convenience of loading his horse with plunder, as soon as which is secured he understands they have orders from Morarey to proceed to Trichinopoly. Wherefore he has only to send a strong detachment to Arcot and Timmerie and after demolishing the fortifications at Conjeeveram to march with the rest for Trivelore and Poonamallee.”

The next volume examined by me was—

“THE CONSULTATION AND DIARY BOOK

OF

RICHARD PRINCE,

Deputy Governor and Council of Fort. St. George,

CONTAINING

THEIR TRANSACTIONS IN THE AFFAIRS OF THE UNITED COMPANY OF MERCHANTS OF ENGLAND TRADING IN THE EAST INDIES—BEGAN JANUARY 1750-51.

Thursday, the 15th August.

At a Consultation present—

RICHARD PRICE, *Deputy.*

THOMAS COOKE.

JOHN SMITH.

WILLIAM SMYTH KING.

JOHN WALSH.

“Arrived nine Mussoolahs from Fort St. David with Military Lascars, &c. The Hon'ble Company's ships *Wager*, *Josiah Hindman* from Fort St. David with a party under the command of Captain Clive and General letter of the 22nd instant.

26th August.—“Marched out a detachment under the command of Captain Clive.

9th September.—“Advanced Robert Orme, Attoreney for Captain Robert

Clive, three hundred (300) Pagodas being on account of the expedition to Arcot, and Nabob Mahomed Ally Cawn is ordered to be debited for the same.

13th September 1751.—“Nulla Cuntauk presenting a bill for two thousand (2,000) Arcot Rupees and three hundred Pagodas drawn by Captain Robert Clive at Arcot in the Deputy Governor and Council, the same is now discharged, viz.—

Arcot Rupees amount to Pagodas	515	17	0
Current Pagodas	300	0	0
	Pagodas	815	17 0

for which Nabob Mahomed Ally Cawn is to be debited also for four hundred (400) Pagodas now advanced, Captain Clive's allowances being likewise on account of the expedition to Arcot.

12th November 1751.—“General Letter from the Presidency of the 4th instant informs us likewise of the President's having advised the Deputy Governor by letter of having sent us a reinforcement of 350 Sepoys and 50 Europeans under the command of Captain Kilpatrick, and that one of the boats on which the sepoys came stopping at Allapanne the French made them prisoners; this supply of men, with what came under command of Lieutenant Innis, is the utmost the President says they can assist us with, and which they imagine will be sufficient for the purpose in hand. That they have been informed that upwards of two lacks of Rupees being collected by Mahomed Ally's Agents at Tripoly which they order us to endeavour all we can to secure. Captain Clive writes from Arcot that he is blockaded and unable to act, and therefore we are to be as expeditious as possible in relieving him, as by delaying we shall give time to the enemy to gather strength. The President, &c., also orders us to credit Mahomed Ally's account for all the money which we receive from Tripoly, and to debit him for the disbursements. Also to enlist 300 sepoys for the security of Poonamallee and St. Thomè during these troubles.

“General Letter to the Hon'ble President, &c., Council drawn up and signed in answer to their of the 4th instant, acquainting them of Captain Kilpatrick's arrival here, the 30th ultimo, with a party under his command except those made prisoners at Allapanne; also that 5 chelingas with Field carriages and Military stores were got on this side of Sadrass, and that we have sent mussoolahs to tow them hither. That with regard to the Tripoly money, the Deputy Governor acquaints us that as soon as Captain Clive has marched with his detachment to Arcot, Sampatraw, the late Nabob's Duan, appointed a person to act for Mahomed Ally at that place in order to secure the money collected at the Pagoda; at the same time, Bommeraw, one of the considerable Polygars there, sent (1,000) one thousand peons under pretence of assisting him, but no sooner was he advised of Captain Clive's being blockaded than he wrote a letter to the Deputy Governor and another to Sampatraw acquainting them that he had received a menacing letter from Chunda Saib about his assisting Mahomed Ally, and by several expressions he plainly discovered that he determined to side with the party that was most likely to be uppermost; upon which the Deputy Governor thought proper to send the Bombay Jemindar with 60 of his best sepoys and two hundred peons (200) to try if they could bring the money away, and finding that Bommeraw was not to be relied upon they thought it would be running too great a risque to attempt it; however, Mahomed Ally's Agent has found means to remit to Sampatraw to the amount of thirty-two thousand five hundred (32,500) Rupees and five thousand (5,000) Pagodas, which shall be brought to account of Mahomed Ally as the Hon'ble President, &c., are pleased to direct, and if Mahomed Ally's affairs take the least favourable turn we flatter ourselves we shall be able to get the

remainder of that. Yesterday the Deputy Governor received a letter from Bojangaw, brother to Morarey, the Moratta General, advising that he was arrived at Arcot and had surrounded the Camp with his Army, and stopped provisions of all kinds from getting to Chunda Saib. That he had taken forty oxen (40) and two camels (2) load of ammunition going to the camp. He desired the party we intended to send to the relief of Captain Clive might join him as soon as possible, when he makes no doubt of being able to destroy their whole force, upon which Captain Kilpatrick has been ordered to march with the detachment under his command and to proceed directly to Arcot.

26th November 1751.—“General Letter from the President, &c., Council (Fort St. David's) of the 10th instant, stating that they are glad the Morattas are arrived at Arcot, and that we have dispatched a party of men under command of Captain Kilpatrick to the relief of Captain Clive. That they are advised that Chunda's friends are endeavouring to alienate them from Mahomed Ally's interest, therefore they order us to act with the greatest caution, and to recommend the same to the Officer abroad.

“General Letter to the Hon'ble the President, &c., Council in answer to the above drawn up and signed, acquainting them of our having received their favour of the 18th instant, which we acknowledged by letter of the 22nd. That Captain Kilpatrick arrived at Arcot the 15th instant. But the day before he got there Chunda Saib's people attempted to storm the Fort, but were repulsed with great loss by Captain Clive, leaving all their Artillery behind them, upon which Captain Clive sent out a party under command of Lieutenant Bulkley, who took Tinnevery Fort; that Chunda Saib's son is encamped near Vellore, and that Captain Clive, by a letter to the Deputy Governor of the 20th, is marched out and has encamped himself between him and Arcot, and that we expect to hear of an action every hour: that the Deputy Governor has also received a letter from Bojangraw, brother to Morarey, General of the Morattas, wherein he confirms all that Captain Clive mentions as to the situation of the camps and of our post. We assure their Honour, &c., we shall use all the endeavours we can possibly to engage the Morattas to Mahomed Ally's interest.”

Desirous of getting as much information as possible regarding Clive's expedition to Bengal, the next volume examined by me was one containing the Consultations for 1756.

“21st August 1756.

At a Consultation present—

GEORGE PIGOT, ESQ., Governor, *President*.
STRINGER LAWRENCE,
HENRY POWNEY.
ROBERT ORME.
WILLIAM PERCIVAL.
ROBERT PALK.

“The President acquaints the Committee that intelligence was received on the 16th instant of the taking of Calcutta by the Moores on the 20th June, in consequence of which it having been resolved in Council to send as large a force as can possibly be spared from hence to make an effort for the re-establishment, he despatched orders the 17th instant to Captain Pye to march higher with the army from Conjeeveram.

Letter from Mr. Charles Frederick Noble Read. “I look on old Omy Chand as the man in Bengal the most capable of serving us if he has a mind to it, though considering the ill usage he has often received from the gentlemen of our nation there (who have generally sacrificed the Company's welfare and nation's honour and glory to their private progress and interest), we can scarce hope for his favour without the hopes of retrieving what he may have lost by this unhappy event, and being better treated in future, may prevail with him. Whether he had any hand in the present affairs or not I cannot say: he was intimate with the Nabob and all the Court.”

16th October.—“This morning Vice-Admiral Watson sailed from this road for Bengal with the following ships under his command, *viz.*, His Majesty's ships *Kent*, *Cumberland*, *Tiger*, *Salisbury*, *Bridgwater*, and *Blaze* (Fireship) and the Hon'ble Company's ships *Walpole* and *Malboro* having on board Lieutenant-Colonel Clive with a detachment of land forces.”

Shortly after the fleet had sailed for Madras, intelligence of a French war reached the Madras Government, and it was discussed in Council whether, according to the Provisional treaty, the news should not be communicated to Pondicherry.

“22nd November 1756.

At a Committee present:—

GEORGE PIGOT, ESQ., Governor, *President*.
HENRY POWNEY.
ROBERT PALK.

“It being stipulated by the 8th Article of the Provisional Treaty that whichever of the two nations shall receive first answers from Europe concerning the Truce shall communicate *bond fide* the said answers to the other nation, a debate arose whether the advice of the war ought or ought not to be transmitted to Mr. DeLeyrit.

“As the declaration of War is doubtless to be esteemed a definitive answer to the Truce, in strict conformity to the before mentioned article, notice of it should be sent to Pondicherry, but it is necessary first to weigh the conveniences and inconveniences of such a step. We are yet uncertain whether Mr. Leyrit has received the news or not. If he has, he thinks it unnecessary to communicate it to us. If he has not, our giving him public notice without being in a capacity and in readiness to enter upon some action will expose our weakness, and can only serve to make the enemy more alert in attacking such places as lie most open to their insults, particularly the Company's Northern Settlement. It is agreed therefore not to advise Mr. Leyrit of the war, and further if Colonel Aldercron should again mention the necessity of reading the Declaration at the Head of the Troops, the President is desired to represent to him that it may be of bad consequence to do it until we know that the news has reached our Northern Factories, which being in a very weak state will require time to provide for the security of the Company's effects in readiness against any emergency.

"12th December 1758.

At a Consultation present—

GEORGE PIGOT, ESQ., Governor, *President*.

HENRY POWNEY.

STRINGER LAWRENCE.

WILLIAM PERCIVAL.

JOHN SMITH.

CHARLES BROUCHIER.

JOHN PYBUS.

HENRY VANSITTART.

MR. NORRIS, indisposed.

"The enemy having marched this morning from the Mount, and appeared about day-break upon Choultry Plain, our army after about two hours' cannonading, returned into garrison, and the enemy encamped upon the spot where our troops were last night about a mile and half to the southward of the Fort. At the same time their advanced guards were seen at the Garden House and Chebawk, the village just on the other side of the Bar. From these motions it appearing to be the enemy's design to form immediately the siege of Madras, and the Board being of opinion that the necessary orders for conducting the defence cannot, without great inconvenience and delay, be debated on and issued by the whole Council—it is therefore unanimously *agreed* to leave the conduct of the defence to the Governor, who with Colonel Lawrence is desired to take the assistance of the other Field Officers and the Engineer as often as may be requisite, and immediately to issue the necessary orders."

"Consultation, 18th February 1759.

"The Council having at the commencement of the siege delegated all their authority to the Governor that so the Publick Service might not receive any prejudice by the delay which must have necessarily attended the assembling the Council upon every emergency, that danger being happily passed by the Retreat of the enemy the 17th instant, the Council again resume their proper functions, the President assuring them of his grateful sense of the confidence they were pleased to repose on him, and the whole Council at the same time acknowledging with thankfulness the good effects of his activity during the siege."

I next examined a most interesting Volume containing a—

"Journal of transactions during the siege of Fort St. George, began the 12th December 1758.

"In order to dispose the garrison with spirits and as a Reward for the Bravery, it is resolved to publish to them in case the enemy shall be either defeated or compelled to raise the siege, the sum of fifty thousand rupees shall be divided amongst them five days after their defeat or retreat, following in this promise of reward the example of the Hon'ble Company, who have thought two thousand pounds not too large a recompence to the seamen of any of their ships who shall make a good defence when attacked and repel the enemy.

Wednesday, the 20th.—This being the day appointed by the Charter for Mayor and Sheriff annually elected to enter on their respective offices, the Council assembled as usual, and a message being brought that the Mayor elect and Sheriff are ready to take the oath, they are introduced with the other members and officers of the Mayor's Court, and the oaths of allegiance and office are

first administered by the President to Charles Turner, Esq., who was chosen the 5th instant and then to Mr. Henry Eustace Johnstone, who was the same day elected Sheriff both for the year ensuing.

"It having been always usual upon this occasion to salute the new Mayor with nine guns, nine guns were shotted upon the Royal Bastion and pointed at the enemy's quarters and works and discharged in honour of the new Mayor, and it is hoped with good effect on the enemy.

Thursday, 21st. Important Sortie.—"By this sortie the enemy has been thrown into a general commotion, besides the good effects such sallies may have on our sepoys by enduring them to danger, the enemy's people are harassed and fatigued and their works retarded."

(This page is loose. It should at once be repaired.)

Friday, the 22nd.—The intelligence received this day is as follows:—

"A Company's peon who was of those placed as Tappies on the Pulicat road, was seized by the French the day they invested Madras, and has worked for them as a cooly ever since, this morning found means to escape and gave the following account. That the enemy have a Battery of four guns by the seaside completed and the guns mounted; the face of the Battery is in a circular form, so that he judges some of the guns will bear upon the road and some enfilade the east front of the town. From that Battery a Breastwork is thrown up to Tombey Chetty's house, behind which, on this side the old ditch, another Battery for six guns is almost completed, and three guns are brought up and placed in the ditch in readiness. The Breastwork is continued from this Battery to Peddanigne's house close to the burying ground, where another Battery is begun intended also for six guns as he judges. From thence the Breastwork is continued to the canal lately made by our taking out clay for the works, and near that they have cleared out a space where they keep their magazines of stores and baggage, &c. That they began to work three days ago behind the old Hospital near the back of Sumpatrow's house in Peddanigne's pettah, but having had five or six men killed there by the cannon from the Fort they have not continued that work, but in the other street at the back of the old Hospital fronting the north side of the new Hospital they have begun and are now busily employed upon a Circular Battery of six guns. This peon further reports that the regiment of Lorrain lay by their arms last night in the great Bazar Street of Peddanigne's pettah, and that Fisher's Hussars and the rest of their horse were in the street adjoining. That the Battalion of India are quartered near the Portuguese Church and as far as Cachelly Pagoda. That the Croffrys are in the Company's Garden, and Lally's Regiment in the old Pagoda further north called Mallezar's Pagoda. That Mr. deBussy is gone with three hundred Europeans to join Raza Saib in order to oppose Usoff Cawn.

Saturday, the 23rd.—"The firing was kept up last night very briskly, as for some nights past, upon the enemy's parallel as well as upon the other parts where we were informed they are at work. Their parallel seems to be but little advanced, but the French dispersed.

"As it is reasonable to think that public demonstrations of joy upon occasion of victory gained by Colonel Ford might have a good effect by raising the spirits of our people and producing the contrary on the enemy, it was therefore resolved to put the whole garrison under arms and to march them into the covered way, which it was supposed would alarm the enemy and bring them to their front post, and so expose them the more to our shot, and then to fire twenty-one guns into different parts of their quarters and works, and give three

running fires from the covered way of the whole garrison, which was executed accordingly.

Sunday, the 24th.—"Yesterday a soldier was tried by a General Court Martial for locking his piece at his Serjeant and threatening to kill him and received sentence of death which was executed this day. Severe examples being thought absolutely necessary at this time to prevent disorders at the garrison which might prove fatal.

Tuesday, the 2nd.—"The French cannonading during the day. Most of the shells were directed at the houses and a great many at the Governor's quarters in the Fort House; two fell in it and broke through the first terras and twelve or thirteen others fell in or upon the building of the Inner Fort.

Sunday, the 7th January.—"The enemy threw many shells in the night and at day-break began to batter with their cannon; their shells all this day continued as before to be directed chiefly at the houses by which many are already in ruin. Their fire from Lally's Battery was from seven cannons and seven mortars, and from the Lorrain Battery from seven cannons and one howtz as yesterday; they also opened another Battery this morning to the left of the Burying Ground, from whence they fired with two pieces on the left face of the North Lunette. The damage done to our works by the enemy's fire is not very great. The embrasures and platforms are more impaired by our own cannon than by their shot or shells, the greater part of which flew into or over the Town. A working party of 100 men are ordered to repair in the night with sand-bags the damaged embrasures on the old North-East, the Demy, the Royal and Pigot's Bastion, and 100 sepoy to get up two twenty-four pounders in the place of two which have had their muzzles knocked off on the North-East Bastion. The enemy's works appeared to be much disordered by our fire. They ceased firing about six this evening, and our working party in the covered way can plainly hear them repairing their embrasures and platforms. We have had one European, one Coffree, and one sepoy killed this day, and two Europeans and three sepoy wounded.

Monday, the 8th.—"The enemy ceased firing last night about sunset and began to throw shells again between eleven and twelve and continued so all night; they also began to fire from some cannon about two o'clock in the morning, and at daylight they began to play with the same guns and mortars and in the same direction as yesterday with the addition of two guns more from the Burying Ground, so that their battery at that place now consists of four guns. The damage done to the works this day is much more considerable than yesterday, the enemy have lowered their embrasures, having probably observed that many of their shots flew over. A working party of 100 Europeans and two Companys of sepoy are ordered to repair the damage done to the works.

Friday, 12th January.—"Pursuant to the Resolution taken yesterday, a sortie was made this morning to the southward. Major Cholmondely Brereton who commanded the sortie reports that half an hour after four o'clock this morning he marched from the covered way with one company of Grenadiers and a detachment consisting of three officers three serjeants and eighty-three privates with four hundred sepoy. When his advanced party arrived near the Bar they were fired at by some sepoy the enemy had placed behind a trench, who then retired immediately. He then advanced through the topes into a lane which leads to the Governor's garden house, and there a trooper who was

advanced before the party brought him word that the enemy were posted at the end of the lane and had one gun pointed the way our party was marching up; he thereupon gave orders for the advanced party of Grenadiers to move up briskly which they did, and gave their fire at about thirty yards' distance from the enemy. The enemy then fired their gun which was charged with grape, and then abandoned it, and we took possession; the enemy being quite dispersed, our people were drawing off the gun when the Commandant of sepoy brought word that there was another gun pointed towards the bridge leading to the Island and desired leave to draw it off which they did. The number killed and wounded of the enemy's not known. We took prisoners one officer (the Chevalier de——— a Lieutenant of Lally's Regiment) and four private men. Our loss will appear by the report hereunder.

13th January.—"Lieutenant Charles Todd, Commandant of Sepoy, reports that the sepoy's arms and ammunition are in very bad orders, and in general their officers so ignorant of anything relative to military affairs and so totally unacquainted with discipline, that there is great difficulty in making them understand the most simple occasional orders.

19th January.—"It being judged from this intelligence that the enemy's design to make some attempt this night the intended sally was countermanded and all the garrison ordered to lay under arms at their several alarm posts.

14th February.—"Before the moon rose the enemy advanced a galrionade about 30 feet in front of the stockade under cover of the bank of the glacis, and formed a traverse with a direct communication behind it to the stockade. This work was discovered by the light of the moon about 9 o'clock, and a constant fire of musketry, round and grape, was kept upon that part the whole night, and at day-break the old guards of the demi-place of arms and fascine Battery sallied out and entirely destroyed the work the enemy had done in the night without any other accident on our part than two men slightly wounded.

16th February.—"As soon as it grew dark three lights were hoisted at the Flag Staff as a mark for the ships to come in; by about 8 o'clock at night the six ships anchored in the road, and to the great joy of the garrison, proved to be His Majesty's Ship *Queenborough*, Captain Kemperfelt, and the Company's Frigate *Revenge*, with the *Tilbury*, *Winchelsea*, *Prince of Wales*, and *Britannia* having on board six companys of Colonel Draper's Regiment. Mr. Pybus, one of the Council, went off with a letter from the Governor to Captain Kemperfelt to compliment him on his arrival, and to desire him to land as many of the soldiers as he can to-night, and Colonel Draper wrote off to Major Monson to the same effect, it being apprehended that if Mr. Lally does intend to make any push he will do it this night before our succours can come to our assistance: all the garrison, the Company's servants and inhabitants were therefore ordered under arms and continued so the whole night at their several alarm posts, and about two companys were landed from the ships in the night. A constant fire was kept upon the enemy's trenches which they sometimes returned and threw a few shells in the beginning of the night, but none after 11 o'clock. About midnight three deserters came in separately from St. Thome, and report that the French entirely abandoned that place, and left several mortars and some stores behind which were sent there to be embarked in boats and sent to Pondicherry. That their outposts have been ordered to join at the powder mill, and that the enemy intend to raise the siege and march off before day-break.

17th February 1759.—“About three in the morning the enemy set fire to several large piles of wood in the rear of their guard battery, and as soon as the day broke it appeared that the enemy had abandoned their trenches and batteries and were retreating, and about 9 o'clock in the morning they blew up the Powder Mill at Egmore.

“In the enemy's Hospital were found 44 sick and wounded soldiers without one person to attend them. Mr. Lally's sudden march may account for his leaving these people behind, but nothing can justify abandoning them without leaving a line to recommend them to our care. They however found humanity in their enemy which was denied them by their General; immediate orders were given that the same care should be taken of them as of our own people, and the greatest part have since recovered. The enemy's precipitate retreat prevented the destruction of the Black Town, which was fully intended as appears by Mr. Lally's letter of the 14th February. The houses in general have suffered notwithstanding considerable damage as well by the loss of doors, windows &c. which were useful to the enemy as by our shot and shells. The Company's garden house and the houses belonging to the European inhabitants in the environs and at the Mount have suffered a severe fate; all of them are greatly damaged; some have only the walls left, and nothing but want of time prevented the total demolition of every one.

“In 1759 the Council again resumed their proper function.”

The next volume examined is entered as one of the volumes of Military Proceedings, but its title is “Diary and Proceedings of the Committee for transacting affairs with the country Government.” Began 1st January 1757.

“AT A COMMITTEE.

Present:

GEORGE PIGOT, Governor, *President*.
HENRY POWNEY.
ROBERT ORME.
WILLIAM PERCIVAL.
ROBERT PALK.

“Letter from Rear Admiral Pocock advising of his arrival at Negapatam in His Majesty's Ship *Cumberland*. This is to acquaint you by Pallamaw Mr. Smith despatches, that the *Cumberland* arrived here on the 14th in the evening in a very distressed condition but being able to get round Point Palmiras and very sickly, an extreme want of provisions having only six days' rice and sugar at half allowance for the ship's company, of which two hundred and sixty-six were down with various disorders, but the worst was the scurvy, two hundred and eight being afflicted with that disease, and many must have died had they not been speedily sent on shore.

“The Chief has informed me a war was declared against France, the 17th May last, which news, I hope, will get to Mr. Watson's hands soon.

Bandarmalanka, 21st December.—“Mr. Bussy is lying with his camp at Beeswara, and I hear gives out that upon the first hostilities committed by us either by sea and land he will annoy us all he can.

3rd January 1757.—“Resolved that the colourmen of the sepoy companies have only six rupees a month confirmably to the Book of Military Regulations.

27th January 1757.—“Two letters received, dated 25th May, by the Secret Committee of the East India Company. One of these is to give advice of the declaration of war and direct notice to be sent to Admiral Watson and to all the Company settlements. The other directs that Captain Brohier be sent to Bengal to fortify Fort William if the works here do not indispensably require his presence.

7th February 1757.—“An account of the yearly revenues belonging to the countries dependant on Trichinopoly as farmed for the year 1757.”

“11th February 1757.

At a Committee present:—

GEORGE PIGOT, ESQ., Governor, *President*.
HENRY POWNEY.
ROBERT ORME.
ROBERT PALK.
MR. PERCIVAL, indisposed.

The following letters received by the Ship *Sally* from the Select Committee at Bengal and Robert Clive, Esq., with a journal of military operations, are now read:—

Letter from the Select Committee at Bengal—

“Though no persons can have a higher opinion of the integrity of Colonel Clive than we have, or would more readily acquiesce to his judgment for conducting any military operations by land which may occur in the course of this expedition, yet we cannot conceive by what authority you have assumed a right in giving that gentleman the powers you have done, and therein treating us in the light of a subordinate notwithstanding you have admitted and addresses us as a Governor-in-Council.

“To John Brohier informing him that either yourself or Mr. Call should proceed to Calcutta. We desire therefore that you will consider the present state of the works at this place and acquaint us with your opinion whether it be most proper for you or him to go on that service.

From Captain Brohier.—“I beg leave to represent that it is of the utmost importance to the Company's welfare that the works of this place be completed in the most expeditious manner possible, and that as they will take up at least to the latter end of August to finish them, I conceive my presence is absolutely necessary here to do it.

“Fort David certainly is in a better condition than this place, and Mr. Call might be spared to go to Calcutta; but in case of a siege he is the properest person at St. David to direct what is to be done in the defence of it, being best acquainted with the strength or weakness of the several parts of that place, and as he has seen all the mines carried on, he must know how to make use of them better than any other person can do who has not had that advantage; he is carrying on the south curtain which, I hope, will be finished this summer and then the fort will be secure and safe on all sides.

“The Committee are as much surprised as concerned to find that the gentlemen at Bengal upon so secure a re-establishment of their affairs have not by this opportunity returned any of our troops. The tediousness of the passage which is mentioned by Colonel Clive as the only reason for his not

coming up appears to be very insufficient, for the April passage is very much better than that of August.

"Whitehall, 3rd June 1756.

GENTLEMEN,

In consequence of your memorial of the 19th past, I have the satisfaction to acquaint you that the King has been pleased to order Vice-Admiral Watson to continue in the East Indies with such of the ships under his command as are in good condition for six months beyond the time to which his stay was before limited, in order that the settlement and trade of His Majesty's subjects in those parts may have all the protection from the King's ships as the present situation of public affairs will allow of.

HENRY FOX."

Letter from Colonel Forde, describing the assaults in Nellore, 9th May 1757.

"Last night I received your favour of the 30th ultimo, since which we have had a most damnable brush and suffered considerably, as you will see by the enclosed list of the killed and wounded.

"No man here ever saw so brisk an action whilst it lasted, and I must do the officers and men the justice to say that they behaved with the most undaunted resolution and bravery.

Attempt to capture Madura.—"I have this moment received a letter from Captain Calliaud desiring me to acquaint you, gentleman, that he made an attempt to escalade a weak part of Madura Fort, which was rendered fruitless by their ladders breaking down, occasioned by the men's too eagerly mounting; however, he had the good fortune to return safe to his camp without the loss of a single man.

"As the works necessary to be raised at Bengal will require that the ground be tryed and well piled, I must request you will grant me the liberty to carry with me the boring tools which were brought out by Mr. Robins for the purpose and are now at St. David, as also the engine I have made here for driving piles.

"I must request also the favour of carrying with me either Christopher Macklin or John Dyer, European Master brick-layers, as they are accustomed to line out works, and will be useful to forward the service there, as I am informed the people at Bengal are entirely unacquainted with our method of working.

I am, &c.,

JOHN BROHIER.

FORT ST. GEORGE,

10th May 1757.

"To

THE HON'BLE GEORGE PIGOT AND GENTLEMEN
OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE.

"The number of sepoy now appointed to proceed with our troops to the southward are as follow:—

"From Madras and Poonamallee, five hundred.

"From Carangoly, three hundred, and of those with Colonel Fordé, three hundred.

"Agreed that Jamal Saib, an old and experienced Subidar, do command the sepoy upon the expedition, and ordered that he make ready five hundred of the best men, and at the same time examine those that will remain here, and report if any of them are unfit for the service."

Letter from Captain Jos. Smith, Commanding at Trichinopoly. Part of the enemy's army cross the river and take possession of Wariour Pagoda.

"To

STRINGER LAWRENCE AND ALEXANDER WYNCH, ESQS.

GENTLEMEN,

The party under command of Monsr. D'Auteuil were no sooner crossed the Colleroon than a detachment in the dusk of the evening marched and took possession of Wariour Pagoda, at which place they yet remain, plundering cattle and everything else that comes to hand, nor is it in my power to check them in the least while out of cannon shot from our garrison; the greatest part of their Battalion, with artillery and baggage, moved up the island to the topes at which place they crossed; where next they intend to march and what schemes are in view a few days will show us; it's said they have 500 Europeans besides above 100 Hussars mounted.

"I advised Captain Calliaud from the first notices of their coming, and wish with all my heart he was returned, that we might not be idle spectators, while our enemys are breathing not but destruction to us all. They will be mistaken, and should they offer to make an attempt on our garrison, Monsr. D'Auteuil will, I fancy, meet with a reception that may cool his courage, however so warm it may be.

"Excuse me, Gentlemen, if I beg you to acquaint the Select Committee of this, as at present I have so much business in hand that I have scarce a moment to myself.

I have, &c.,

JOSEPH SMITH.

TRICHINOPOLY,

14th May 1757.

24th May 1757.—"We have appointed Jamal Saib, who is esteemed a trusty Subidar, to be Commander of the Sepoy upon this expedition."

From Colonel Aldercron, Commanding the army in the field.—"At my first setting out it was hinted to me that the officers of the regiment expected to have my table; I replied that had you such an intention you would have mentioned it to me; however, I have regulated it so that I have eight of them in their turn besides my own family which I think is a sufficient number."

Letter from George Pigot and Committee.—"An Aid-de-Camp is a new officer in the field, as that duty has generally been done by the Secretary to the Commanding Officer. Mr. Reith must be satisfied therefore with receiving the same the other Lieutenants do."

"The Company make a very handsome allowance to all the officers in the field to bear their extraordinary charges; we therefore cannot but be much surprised that any one should imagine he has a right to your table, which is left entirely to your own management, and we do not doubt but that sensible of the heavy charge the Company is at, you will put it upon the most frugal footing that can be consistently with your station.

GEORGE PIGOT AND COMMITTEE.

FORT ST. GEORGE,
3rd June 1757.

"To

JOHN ALDERCRON, Esq.,

Commander in charge of the Land Forces in India.

Letter from Captain Calliaud.—"The night after my arrival the French raised the siege and recrossed the river."

Letter from Captain Brohier, who being on the point of embarking for Bengal, represents the works most necessary to be completed at Madras, 10th June 1757.

13th June 1757.—"We enjoin you strictly to take particular care that the troops under your command do not at any time oppress or injure the inhabitants of the country either on their persons or effects. Their peace and security is indeed to be one of the first objects of your attention.

16th June 1757.—"The Ship *Marlborough* being under dispatch for Bengal, I agreed that letters be wrote by that opportunity to the gentlemen of the Select Committee there, Admiral Watson and Colonel Clive acquainting them of the French having raised the siege of Trichinopoly upon Captain Calliaud's succeeding in throwing himself into the Fort, and of the news we have lately received that our Factories at Ingeram and Maddepollam are taken by the French, and our apprehensions that Vizagapatam may undergo the same fate should Monsr. Bussy bend his force that way.

"And as Vizagapatam is a settlement of very considerable value to our Hon'ble Masters, as well as for the quantity of cloth it provided, as in consideration of its being now the only inlet to the northern countries left in our possession, we are in opinion that it is necessary to secure it by all means possible against the attack of the enemy. But as the superiority of the French in this province, and the unfinished state of our fortifications, will by no means suffer us to weaken ourselves by any detachments from hence, and as vessels have frequently been known to leave Bengal early in July and make their passage to Vizagapatam, it is agreed to write to Colonel Clive directing him to embark as many of the men which are destined to be returned to the coast as he conveniently can on board such vessels as he may be able with the assistance of Admiral Watson and the Select Committee to procure; and dispatch them early in July with directions to land at Vizagapatam, if the state of that Settlement should render it necessary, recommending at the same time that he leave Bengal himself with the rest of the men that are to be returned, so early that he may be able to call at Vizagapatam on his way hither, and give such assistance as he may see necessary to the Company's affairs there. To Admiral Watson, that we depend on his giving Colonel Clive for the service before-men-

tioned the assistance of the twenty-gun ship, or any other part of the squadron that may be ready for the sea.

17th June 1757.—"And the President acquaints the Committee that upon the first moving of the troops into the field Colonel Lawrence offered his service to assist Colonel Aldercron as a volunteer, and acquainted him with his intention to join the camp on the arrival of the army at Fort St. David on their way to Trichinopoly.

20th June 1757.—Letter to Colonel Aldercron showing the inconvenience of his assuming the command of the army in the field and pressing him to stay at Madras.

23rd June 1757.—*Answer of Colonel Aldercron.*—"In order to prevent the sequel of a paper-war of which I have already but too much experience, I shall come to the matter in question, which is, that I can't comply with your request in remaining at Madras whilst His Majesty's troops are in the field, as I am very sure in so doing I should incur His Majesty's displeasure; besides I have great reason to believe you intend the command of the army for Colonel Lawrence. I have, as well as you, Gentlemen, a great opinion of his military capacity; this joined with his knowledge of the situation of this country, I believe would be of infinite service, if he joined us. Any military operation you have to propose I shall according to my instructions assemble my Council of War, and if their opinion should not be agreeable to your inclinations I shall be sorry for it, but as I must believe them better judges in military affairs shall be determined by them.

I am, &c.,

JOHN ALDERCRON.

CAMP AT CHINGLEPUTT,

21st June 1757.

28th June 1757.—"Translate of an olla or letter which the King of Travancore proposed writing to the Governor of Madras, the 17th December 1756, and for that purpose sent it to Anjengo to be wrote in English.

"An alliance with the King of Travancore might prove of much advantage to the Company's affairs and secure the peace of those parts of the Tinnevely country adjacent to his limits, and as it appears by his above letters to the President that he is not averse to adjusting his claims on some districts of that country, it is agreed that a letter be wrote to the King of Travancore acquainting him that if he will send us a fair statement of what has happened in relation to them, we will compare it with the accounts we receive from the Nabob and settle the affair in an amicable manner. In the meantime that we desire nothing may interrupt his old friendship with the English, and that until affairs are settled the countries may remain as they are, to which purpose he should send orders to his officers to cease all hostilities, as we have done on our part. Ordered accordingly, that a copy of the King of Travancore's letter to the President and his answer be transmitted to Captain Calliaud, that he may do whatever he shall see necessary to establish a good understanding between us and the Prince.

29th June 1757.—*Letter to the King of Travancore.*—"A whole kingdom is not to be considered where our friendship is concerned; how then can a few villages cause any difference between us. Until the agreement is settled let

everything remain upon its present footing and no disturbance be committed on either side.

22nd September 1757.—“As His Majesty’s intention in ordering Colonel Aldercron’s return home is undoubtedly to remove the inconveniences which have been occasioned by his exerting a separate authority, it would be conforming in the most perfect manner to those orders and intentions if he would himself take his passage on the first vessel which will be the *Prince Henry Packet*. And as we apprehend that the conduct of any military operations may still be under difficulties if he stays, although so large part of his regiment is delivered over to the Company’s officers, it is agreed to give him our opinion of the intention of his late orders, assuring him at the same time that he shall be provided with the best accommodation possible if he chooses to proceed by this conveyance.

Letter from Colonel Aldercron.—“I have received your letters; in answer to the most material part of it I am to inform you that His Majesty’s orders are to be implicitly obeyed by all officers in his service without daring to presume to form any judgment of His Royal intentions, and am also to acquaint you that it is my indispensable duty to be the last man of my regiment that embarks.

“I shall impatiently wait your information of the number of officers and men that can be accommodated on board the *Prince Henry Packet*, that I may without delay give orders for their embarkation in obedience to His Majesty’s commands signified to me by the Secretary at War.

I am, &c.,

JOHN ALDERCRON.”

MADRAS,

22nd September 1757.

News of the Revolution in Bengal.

At a Committee present—

GEORGE PIGOT, ESQ., Governor, *President*.

STRINGER LAWRENCE.

HENRY POWNEY.

ROBERT ORME.

ROBERT PALK.

“By the Sloop *Watson* arrived yesterday from Bengal and His Majesty’s Ship *Triton* which came in this morning received the following letters and papers, *viz.* :—

No. 1. Letter from the Select Committee at Bengal, dated 13th August 1757.

„ 2. Ditto Colonel Clive, dated 2nd July 1757.

„ 3. Ditto ditto dated 3rd August 1757.

„ 4. Ditto ditto dated 12th September 1757.

„ 5. Six letters from Surajat Dowlah, the late Nabob of Bengal, to Mr. Bussy and Mr. Law and one from Mr. Law to the Chief of Sydadabad.

„ 6. Journal of military operations on the expedition to Muxadavad.

“The foregoing papers containing a full narrative of the late unhappy Revolution in Bengal are ordered to be entered in a separate book*.

* This work was carefully studied by me and a great portion of its contents will be embodied in the next volume of Selections from the State papers.

“And the following letters from Vice-Admiral Watson, dated 11th August, two from Rear-Admiral Pocock, dated 18th August and 29th September, one from the Gentlemen of the Select Committee at Bengal, dated 27th September, and one from Colonel Clive, dated 27th September, containing advice of the disposition of His Majesty’s ships and of the Land Forces, are ordered to be here entered, *viz.*—

“To

GEORGE PIGOT, ESQ., &c.,

Gentlemen of the Select Committee at Madras.

GENTLEMEN,

“I have the favour of your several letters of the 30th ultimo, 27th May, and the 16th and 29th June.

“You seem to have been much disappointed at not receiving by the *Renenge*, *Protector*, and *Marlborough* a part of your troops from this Settlement. Your own situation, and the opinion you had of the good establishment of the Company’s concerns were upon in Bengal, were no doubt motives sufficient to justify you in your expectations of a reinforcement from hence. When you hear from the Committee here, to whose letters I refer you, what use has been made of the troops since the taking of Chandernagore, I take it for granted you then will conclude they were detained for a good purpose, for without this last stroke the Company would have been constantly embarrassed, notwithstanding we had met with in all our military operations all the success we could even wish for. But since this last turn of affairs the Company have a different prospect before them, and if they keep a sufficient force here to preserve the right and privileges granted them Bengal must be of more consequence than ever it was.

“I observe in your letter of the 30th April you have some hopes of part of this little squadron being left in India till the arrival of some men-of-war from England; and that you have founded your expectations on Mr. Fox’s answer to the memorial presented to His Majesty by the Company. I must confess I can discover no reason in his answer for your expecting such a request as you have made me to be complied with. The orders I have received are to the same purport as what Mr. Fox told the Company. That is, instead of my returning in the beginning of this year as I was before directed, I am ordered to continue six months longer and then proceed with the squadron under my command to England, and as the time then limited me is now expired, surely I cannot be justified by my orders in leaving any ship behind me; indeed from your expression of *such ships of the squadron as may be in a fit condition to remain*, I should imagine you had forgot how many ships there were, and the condition they were in, when I left Madras. *Kent*, you may remember, was so very weak and in such a bad condition as to render her proceeding to Bengal hazardous, without reducing her to a 40-gun ship and taking out great part of her stores to ease her in a sea. The service the *Kent* has since been employed on in this river has quite demolished her, and rendered her incapable of ever being made fit for His Majesty’s service again. This loss reduces the squadron to only three ships of force and two frigates, and not one of them can be supposed to be in a condition to remain in India after having been three years in the country except the *Triton*, and she alone could be of very little service to you if I had power to leave her behind me. As for the *Bridgewater* she has by an unlucky accident of parting her cable struck, it is supposed, on the flook of an anchor, which has occasioned so large a leak that she must be laid ashore again; what condition she may be found in I can’t judge, but her leak now is very considerable.

"When you seriously have considered the state and number of the squadron, and the words of my orders, I presume you cannot think yourselves justifiable in asking for any part of the squadron to remain, and I am persuaded you cannot be surprised at my refusing your request.

"I hope to be able to call upon the coast in my way to Bombay, but as that will depend upon the time of my sailing from hence, which is very uncertain, the pilots seeming to decline to take charge of the ships till the freshes are over, I therefore can say nothing positive about it, for which reason I shall leave the King's troops behind me.

"I am perfectly well satisfied with Captain Townley for complying with the request you made him, and think he acted very prudently in so doing.

"I was much concerned when I heard the loss of Vizagapatam, but much more so when I knew the whole garrison were made prisoners of war, as you are thereby deprived of the use of so many men at a time you are so much in want of a reinforcement. It's well Trichinopoly did not suffer the same fate.

"We hourly are in expectation of hearing from the coast of the arrival of a Europe ship. A Dutch ship is lately arrived in the river from Batavia, but she brings no intelligence of any squadron coming into the East Indies, either English or French.

I am, &c.,
CHARLES WATSON.

CALCUTTA,
The 11th August 1757.

"P.S.—I beg the favour you will deliver the enclosed to Captain Townley.

"To

GEORGE PIGOT, ESQ., &c.,
Members of the Select Committee at Madras.

GENTLEMEN,

"I am extremely concerned to inform you that Mr. Watson was taken ill of a fever, the 13th, and died the 16th instant. I make no doubt you will share in the general concern which is shown very deeply at this place by people of all ranks and conditions.

"I have nothing in particular to add, but refer you to Mr. Watson's answer, dated the 11th, to your letter to him of the 3rd, and shall be glad to be able to get out of this river at a proper season to call at Fort St. George in my way to Bombay.

"The time of complying with His Majesty's orders of returning to England with the squadron is expired, therefore must proceed as soon as the ships can be properly refitted for the passage; but at the same time assure you that while the short time I have to remain in this country will permit, shall on all occasions be ready to imitate my predecessor in exerting my utmost abilities to promote the Company's interest.

I am, &c.,
GEORGE POCOCK.

CALCUTTA,
18th August 1757.

"To

GEORGE PIGOT, ESQ., &c., *Gentlemen of the Committee at Madras.*

GENTLEMEN,

"Your letters, dated the 8th and 9th instant, directed to Admiral Watson, came to my hands the 22nd by the *Triton*. My dispatches sent to you, dated the 18th of last month, returned here yesterday, the sloop they went in being disabled in the latitude of 15° 00".

"This goes by the *Watson* sloop, and duplicates by the *Triton*, who is dispatched to look out for Commodore Steevens, and will call at Pulicat for any intelligence you may have lodged there.

"The arrival of the French squadron at Pondicherry has altered the measures I purposed to take with His Majesty's ships; therefore, have resolved to remain here at least till I can have further intelligence of the strength and destination of the French squadron. Fort William not being in any sort of condition to defend itself against any number of the enemy's ships, and the *Cumberland* very leaky, shall endeavour to careen her here, and be ready to proceed on the coast so soon as the season will permit.

"If the French are so formidable as to be able to make an attempt on Bombay, I hope you will be able to inform me of it. From the manner of their equipment at their departure from Pondicherry, as well as by information from the Chiefs of Anjengo and Tellicherry, in case they should go round to the Malabar Coast, and at this season of the year, I do not apprehend they will attempt Fort St. George or Fort St. David.

"As the junction of the squadron appears at present so very necessary shall be glad that Mr. Steevens will proceed to Ballasore road as soon as possible and hope the *Cuddalore* sloop has joined him with your intelligence.

I am, &c.,
GEORGE POCOCK.

TYGER, OFF CALCUTTA,
29th September 1757.

"To

THE HON'BLE GEORGE PIGOT, ESQ., &c.,
Members of the Select Committee at Fort St. George.

GENTLEMEN,

"We have received your letter of the 8th instant and are extremely concerned; it is not in our power to assist you with the return of any of the troops in Bengal. The necessity of keeping every man we have is fully explained in our letters of the 13th August. Upon receiving intelligence of the arrival of a French squadron upon your coast, we thought it absolutely necessary to send the Directors and Council, officers, civil and military, and inhabitants of the late Colony of Chandernagore to the coast to prevent their assisting in any shape the French squadron, should they proceed this way to make any attempt on our settlement. The *Restitution* is freighted by the Board for that purpose, and the amount of that ship indemnified by the Company in case she should be taken in her passage to Pondicherry, or detained by the French on her arrival there. We beg leave therefore to recommend your endeavouring to settle a

cartel for that ship with the Governor and Council of Pondicherry before her arrival, to prevent the Company's suffering the loss of Rs. 45,000 which they have engaged to make good to the owners in case she is taken or detained as before-mentioned.

We are, &c.,

ROGER DRAKE, *Junior.*

ROBERT CLIVE.

JAMES KILPATRICK.

RICHARD BECHER.

FORT WILLIAM,

27th September 1757.

"Please to forward the packet by this sloop for the Secret Committee in England, separate from that on the *Syrian*. The *Restitution* will sail about the 3rd October.

"To

THE HON'BLE GEORGE PIGOT, ESQ.,

*President and Governor, and Gentlemen of the
Select Committee at Madras.*

GENTLEMEN,

"I addressed you from Muxadabad the 12th instant, in readiness for the *Marlborough*, who was in the point of sailing for the coast with several other vessels, when the *Revenge* brought an account of the arrival of the French ships at Pondicherry. She was soon followed by the *Triton* with your favours of the 8th and 9th instant.

“The uncertainty of the force of the French ships prevents Mr. Pocock from resolving what measures to pursue—whether to proceed to Bombay or refit here. The arrival of the *Duke*, which we impatiently expect, will probably enable him to determine.

“Mr. Andrews is arrived here from Bandarmalanka, which he left the 14th. The news of our success at Muxadabad had reached there some days before, and I conclude must soon after have been known in Madras, though the Pattamars I dispatched should have been intercepted. Unfortunately the sloop that carried the duplicate advices sprung her mast in a violent storm off Vizagapatam and is returned. It is with great pleasure I understand that the troubles at Golcandah have obliged Monsr. Bussy to march that way.”

“The affairs of this Province continue in quietness. Nothing has occurred since my last except the arrival of the detachment from Patna.

I have, &c.,

ROBERT CLIVE.

CALCUTTA,

27th September 1757.

(Duplicate.)

"It is with the highest satisfaction the Committee receive the accounts of so astonishing and happy a turn in the affairs of the Province of Bengal, and although many advantages might have been obtained on this coast had our troops returned in April, yet we are perfectly sensible that none could have accrued equal to the good consequences which have attended their stay in

Bengal. If, therefore, it is reasonable to judge by consequences, the Gen-
 of the Committee at Bengal and Colonel Clive may well say we did not
 the general cause when we so much pressed the return of our troops,
 this is not a fair way of judging, we rather choose to refer to the letters
 we received the 28th April from those Gentlemen giving an account of the
 of Chandernagore and particularly Colonel Clive's letter, which mentio
 execution of many parts of the treaty made with Surajah Dowla, sho
 the least reason for suspecting that he had designs contrary to that treat
 on our part the least shadow of an intention to commence hostilities
 Such was the state we had to judge by. There was not to us the appe
 of an enemy in the Province of Bengal except those few French wh
 escaped with Mr. Law from Chandernagore. In such circumstances in B
 and far inferior to the French on the coast, we doubt not but our H
 Masters will think we could not too frequently, nor too pressingly, recor
 the return of some part of our troops.

“ It would be doing injustice to the memory of Admiral Watson not to here recorded the sensible concern with which we receive a confirmation news of his death. His bravery and the disinterested zeal with which he took every service that offered for the benefit of the Company are characteristics by which he will ever be remembered in India.

"By the vessels arrived from Bengal we have the pleasure to hear that you have met the *Warwick*, Captain Webb, going into the river.

“Captain Calliaud advises in a letter to the President, dated the 15th instant, that Chetteput was taken by the French the 14th in the morning by assault and escalade. That the loss of the enemy is computed to be five hundred killed and wounded, Europeans and Sepoys. Some reports mention the design to be against Arcot, others say against Tinnevely.

“Ordered, that Captain Calliaud do examine what provisions are in Nabob’s magazines at Arcot, and that he be directed to keep the garrison constantly stored for three months.

“As the garrison of Chingleput has now above one hundred European and five companies of Sepoys, and as that place is near at hand to be relieved, hence in case of necessity, it is ordered that an officer and thirty men and one company of Sepoys be sent from thence to Arcot, and that Captain Calliaud do advise Captain Gardener when the roads are safe.

“The *Triton* man-of-war being sent up by Admiral Pocock purposely for Commodore Steevens, and ordered to wait only twenty-four hours and return to Bengal, agreed that a letter be prepared with all expedition by Admiral Pocock acquainting him that we have no intelligence of Commodore Steevens; that we have lodged a letter at Atcheen recommending him to proceed to this coast as soon as possible; that we shall now write to Bombay forward one copy of his (the Admiral's) orders to Mr. Steevens to join Ballasore. But as Mr. Watson's passage to this coast from Bombay in December was only one month, and Captain James from Bombay to Ballasore the same season near five months, it is agreed to recommend to the consideration of Commodore Steevens whether he can reach Ballasore before Mr. Pocock leaves it, in which case we should be glad to see him here on his way, as it will be a means of the more speedy junction of the two squadrons.

“Agreed also to write to Admiral Pocock, the Gentlemen of the Com at Bengal, and Colonel Clive of the success of the French against Ching that we are yet unacquainted with their further designs, remarking to the general that as many concurring reports give room to apprehend the French

be further reinforced in December or January, it will be necessary that all the protection and assistance be given to this coast.

"Colonel Aldercron having ordered some of those officers and men of the Regiment who do not chuse to remain in India to embark on the *Tavistock* for Bombay in order to be provided at that place with a passage to Europe, as the two ships dispatched from hence cannot accommodate the whole, it is ordered therefore that a copy of the Court of Directors' letter to the President and Council and of the Secret Committee's letter to the President and Committee, dated the 1st of February last, relating to the embarkation of the Regiment for Europe be transmitted to the Select Committee at Bombay, and that they be at the same time informed that the method intended to be practised here is only to give the Commanders of the Ships orders to receive them on board as Charter-party Passengers.

"Agreed also to acquaint the Select Committee at Bombay and the Chiefs of Anjengo and Tellicherry of the advices received since we wrote last.

"Ordered that another letter to the Secret Committee advising of the Resolution in Bengal be prepared to be sent to Bombay by the *Tavistock* and by Pattamar, to be forwarded from thence in the most expeditious manner to England."

After reading the above volumes I examined some of the military bundles which contain many letters of interest. A letter from Clive contains the following:—

6th July 1756.—"Fort St. David. It is recommended to us particularly to avoid hazardous enterprises: were hazardous enterprises ever undertaken by men of prudence but in desperate circumstances, and can there be more effective method, though if to save her settlements from the hazardous enterprises of our enemies, than by the vigorous assistance of His Majesty's *squadron*."

As I was only fourteen days at Madras my research was not as extensive as I could wish, but I trust an opportunity may be afforded me to resume the investigation of the Madras Records. The Records I found were neatly arranged and well protected from damp and dirt. The most ancient muniments have, however, suffered from past neglect and must perish or become utterly undecipherable in the course of a few years. They should be at once printed in the same form that the ancient Bombay and Surat Consultations and Letters have been printed under my editing in the Selections from the Bombay State Papers (Home Series). Selections from some of the more ancient Madras documents have already been printed but they are too meagre to be of any use to the historical student. Something approaching to a facsimile is wanted for him.

In conclusion I may be permitted to express my obligations to Mr. C. H. Dautré, Superintendent, Government Record Office, Madras, and J. S. D'Cruz, of the same, for the assistance they rendered me in my research.

G. W. FORREST,

Officer in charge of the Records
of the Govt. of India.

From

G. W. Forrest, Esq., B. A.,
Officer in charge of the Imperial Library
and Record Department.

To

L. J. Lyall, Esq., B. S., B. S.
Secretary to the Govt. of India, Home Dept.
Dated Calcutta, the 2nd September 1891.

Imperial Library
&
Record Department

Sir,

I have the honour to forward a report on the ancient Records of the Government of Madras, which I was enabled to make during my deputation to that Presidency, and to request the favour of its being forwarded to the above Government.

I have, &c.,
(Sd.) G. W. Forrest
Officer in charge of the Govt. of India Record Dept.

No. 1459

Copy with copy of memorandum, forwarded to Government of Madras.

By order,

Home Department.
(Public).

Simla, the 15th Sept 1891.

Inclosed

Under Secretary to the Govt.

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of the Govt of Madras

WITH ORDER

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BACK PAPER, No.

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OF 18

READ AGAIN ORDER OF GOVERNMENT, DATED
18, No. MISCELLANEOUS.

ENCLOSURES.

CURRENT No.

STATEMENT WITH DITTO.

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT.

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LETTER OF GOVERNMENT.

STATEMENT WITH DITTO.

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